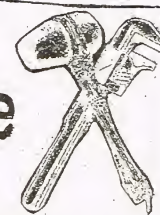


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Earth First! Action Update

Issue 68 May 2000



"To me, Spring is a movement, a mighty surging upward. It isn't coaxed from above, but moved from below." Richardson Wright

The Monthly Round up of Ecological, and Other, Direct Action from Around Britain

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar principles to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

IMF and World Bank Protests

On 16th April finance ministers and central bankers from 25 countries, as well as ministers from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and WTO and other members of the world economic elite went to Washington DC, USA. The IMF and World Bank sponsored Structural Adjustment Programmes destroy local economies, ravage the environment, wipe out jobs, cause famine, and enrich a corrupt corporate elite. These institutions impose 'free market' policies on every country on the planet putting profit and economic growth above all else.

The Washington DC protests against the International Monetary Fund/World Bank spring meetings were billed as Seattle II. In the week before the Washington police used intimidation tactics - heavy police presence, circling helicopters, arresting 600 people at an anti-Gap demonstration, motorbike charging a critical mass bike ride, closing down the direct action convergence centre for 'fire violations' and confiscating bikes, puppets etc. Authorities were embarrassed when the 'incendiary devices' they confiscated were identified as milk jugs and other items from the recycling bin!

On 16th April, 20-30,000 protestors took part in the rally, protest and blockade in the 60-80 blocks surrounding the IMF and World Bank Buildings. Police barricaded two blocks from the target, closing down the city, and many delegates couldn't get through. The next day was more serious. Groups held street parties and blockades at key intersections. As the



World Bank's Development Committee met inside a 100 block exclusion zone, a column of protesters managed to penetrate the perimeter. Hundreds were arrested after voluntarily crossing the police line. About 100 people held a vigil outside the prison, in solidarity with those inside, and will stay until the last people in custody are released. www.a16.org

Mayday 2000

Mayday 2000 is a global day of action and carnival against capitalism. Mayday is red for international workers day, green for Beltane - the ancient fire and fertility festival that signals transformation and rebirth, and black for the anarchists executed for their part in strikes on Mayday 1886. Mayday is a time when red, green and black converge - a catalyst for hope and possibility... Mayday is our day - a day to celebrate the reality of our desires...

Initiative Against Economic Globalization - Prague 2000

Some 20,000 representatives of global capital (world bankers, economists and financiers) are expected to come to Prague in September to attend the 55th annual summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. This prestigious meeting is the first of its kind in the Central and Eastern Europe and will be of a great importance. Various activities are planned including non-violent demonstrations, info campaigns, and a Festival of Art and Resistance. <http://imf2000.webjump.com> or Prague2000_cz@hotmail.com.

If you want to know more about the world wide resistance to the corporate takeover of the world contact Peoples Global Action (see contacts page).

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting in the road are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists.

News in Brief

On April 9th the Earth Liberation Front blocked the toilet of the Waitrose Supermarket in Stroud, Gloucestershire. The action was carried out because the John Lewis Partnership, who own Waitrose, kill British wildlife on their shooting estate in Hampshire. The JLP give wildlife shit, so the ELF have literally given the shit back to the JLP!

British activists subverted Monsanto's headquarters in St Louis USA. The Monsanto Motto was changed from "Food, Health and Hope" to "Fraud, Stealth and Hype."

Shamrock Farm at Small Dole is closing down after 50 years of torturing monkeys. "Hats off to Save the Shamrock Monkeys!"

Simon Jones was killed at Shoreham Docks in 1998 when forced to do dangerous casual work. He wasn't trained for. His family has won a High Court battle forcing the Director of Public Prosecutions to reconsider his dodgy decision not to bring corporate manslaughter charges against Simon's employers. This was a first and will hopefully set a precedent, helping the campaign against casualisation of labour sparked by Simon's death. www.simonjones.org

Members of Voices in the Wilderness have gone on a sanctions-breaking mission to Iraq. They will be carrying medical equipment, medical journals and toys for delivery to children's hospitals. They have not applied for export licences for the items they are taking to Iraq and could be prosecuted for their actions. Voices in the Wilderness UK 01865 243 232

An anti-biotech activist group, the Petaluma Pruners, destroyed grape plants grown by the biotechnology corporation Vinifera in California.

On April Fool's Day a laugh-in took place at the naval base near Faslane Peace Camp, Helensburgh, Scotland. Around 100 people in fancy dress laughed at workers on their way into the base, as well as doing April Fool actions like 'cutting' the fence with plastic tools. The police even joined in, telling campers that the base was moving to America, and asking if the peace camp would follow!

U'wa Protest in London

On 18 April an indigenous leader from Colombia joined a protest in the City of London as part of the U'wa's campaign to save their ancestral lands from oil exploitation. The protest involved a wide range of groups and took place outside the offices of Fidelity Investments. The Fidelity Group is one of the largest shareholders in the US-based Occidental Petroleum Company, which is set to drill for oil right next to U'wa territory. A Colombian court last month ordered Occidental to halt all construction work on its Gibraltar 1 well-site on the grounds that the drilling would violate the "fundamental rights" of the U'wa people including their right to life. The company, after admitting they never consulted with the U'wa, said it will appeal the decision. As the President of the U'wa said, "The injunction speaks of the suspension of the project, not the cancellation. We have taken an important step and are happy because we have advanced in our struggle even though this has come at great sacrifice. We must defend the life of the U'wa..." <http://www.ran.org>

The Modem is Mightier than the Sword

An electronic protest against the Daily Mail and London Evening Standard was a great success, with the Daily Mail letters editor saying they had received over 1,000 e-mails complaining about their coverage of asylum seekers, which has been stirring up racism and fuelling hostility towards refugees. The Guardian reported that "Management at the paper have been rattled by the hostile response from readers over its asylum rankings..." The first batch of e-mails got a standard response, but as the protest grew both papers began to send snotty replies! They also had to contend with a protest of around 100 people outside their offices on the 13th April with constant chanting ("Daily Mail - Hate Mail, Evening Standard - racist standards"). Future protests are planned. Contact the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns on 0121 554 6947 www.ncadc.demon.co.uk/

Mad Pride

Mad Pride is an idea which came out of the 1997 Gay Pride Festival in London. A few survivors of the mental health system said "We could do with a festival like this". And so a collection of individuals got together and slowly started organising themselves to put on events, and eventually develop Mad Pride, which it is hoped will really take off in the year 2000.

The objectives are to promote positive images of mental health, to counteract discrimination and prejudice towards people who have experienced mental distress, to educate the public in mental health issues, to campaign for better mental health provision, to campaign for less oppressive and more enabling legislation and practice guidelines, and to promote economic, social, environmental and cultural integration of users/survivors into mainstream society and their active participation and integration into community life. In terms of the politics of the Mental Health user movement, there has been a rapid disillusionment with New Labour's Mental Health policies. New Labour's early statement of intent, 'No argument with Compulsory Treatment', has really pissed everybody off. How can you put 'Compulsory' and 'Treatment' together? Shouldn't 'Treatment' involve a degree of choice? What they really mean is 'Forcibly Medicate', even when people are well. Using this fancy style of language, no doubt we will see New Labour renaming prisons as 'Compulsory Hostels'! To fight against these coercive measures, people need to fight back by having fun, madness, benefit gigs etc. Hence, Mad Pride has been launched. A voice in the darkness, or just some 'mad sense'? Tel: 0958 907357 mark@ctono.freecerve.co.uk <http://www.ctono.freecerve.co.uk>

Nuke Convoy Stopped

Eight protesters were arrested after halting a convoy carrying Trident nuclear warheads going to the nuclear submarine base at Faslane on the Clyde. Two people locked on, while another painted "illegal" on the side of the lorry in 2-foot high letters, and decorated the windscreen. The 8 were later released without charge. The convoy was delayed for up to 3 hours at considerable cost to the Ministry of Defence.

RESISTANCE IS FERTILE

Now that Spring is in the air, the first shoots of a truly global campaign against Genetic Engineering are bursting forth as campaigners around the world unite to prevent the Biotechnology companies from enslaving the earth's resources for their own ends. 'Resistance is Fertile', a Global Week of Action, sowed seeds for a future which doesn't involve the patenting and genetic engineering of the species of the world. Instead campaigners celebrated the diversity of food and life on this planet.

Many different types of event took place, a selection of which are below. More can be found at www.resistanceisfertile.org

Crops a Flop Party

The sun shone at Gaddesden Row, Hemel Hempstead on Sunday, but too late to revive the genetically modified crops which have faded away. More than 100 people from as far away as Devon came to celebrate the failure of farmer Fiddaman's winter oilseed rape to flower. Speeches, jugglers and music kept partygoers entertained before everyone embarked on a mass march around the fields. A decision had been made by the local group to not decontaminate the site but to ask the Government to terminate this farcical trial. It was a great day for activists from far and wide to get together and see the site. Another rally will be held in June at the site so watch this space... Contact 0468 337054 MartinHumphrey@compuserve.com

Community Garden planted opposite Welsh Assembly

After the Assembly's decision to allow GM crops to be planted in Wales, an organic garden was planted opposite the Assembly in support of a GM free Welsh environment. Campaigners planted rare seed varieties, organic vegetables, wild flowers, trees and herbs and then enjoyed an organic picnic next to the garden.

Worthing Against Terror Bill

A successful protest was held on 11th March, while the same day saw the opening of the 'Terrorist Tearooms', a squat infoshop/café in the High Street. This offered free tea coffee and information to the public for nine days non-stop, and had displays, a reading room, videos etc. As a finale, a couple of spectacular stunts were staged, involving some daredevil climbing. The police response to one protester in the rafters plus a few supporters handing out leaflets was to send in the 'riot' cavalry once again. Brave cops, brandishing their batons, chased and arrested a 12-year-old boy (for reasons

Patent Action

5 campaigners visited the UK Patent Office, Newport, Wales. They made their presence felt inside the building, with giant papier-mache patented vegetables and animals and a large banner. This resulted in a two hour meeting with the Policy Advisor to the Chief Executive and Public Relations advisors.



Greenpeace Cleared

28 Greenpeace activists have been found not guilty of theft after a trial where they admitted destroying a GM crop in Norfolk, last July. It was cut down and sealed in bags to prevent contamination of the environment. The Jury failed to reach a verdict on whether the activists had caused criminal damage to the plants or not, so their may be a retrial.

unknown), along with 2 adults who tried to intervene on his behalf. The climber was also arrested after his amazing 5-hour stint. If you haven't heard by now, the Prevention of Terrorism Act will attempt to stamp out protests by labelling political activists as terrorists. The Terrorist Tearooms have now been boarded up by landlords West Sussex County Council. We wait to see if the authorities put this publicly owned building to as good use as the activists they want to see in jail. Worthing Against the Terror Bill, PO Box 4144, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7NZ. www.worthing.eco-action.org/porkbolter

April Fool Parade

Shoppers in Manchester were taken by surprise on Saturday 1st April when several hundred wannabe terrorists, disguised in police uniforms and riot gear, attempted to intimidate and coerce a group of fluffy protestors into, well, not protesting. The April Fool Parade was organised to make the point that the Terrorism Bill is so extreme and ridiculous that it is a joke - only not a particularly amusing one. About 400 people gathered armed with some decidedly suspicious leaflets, a hugely subversive 'Stop the Terrorism Bill, Terror Bill = Terror State' banner, pig masks, cameras, musical instruments, and pantomime police helmets. Just to help make the point, a large number of humourless jokers - sorry, law enforcement officers also turned up, along with intelligence gatherers (sic) and the usual hardware, including helicopter. The plan was to parade around the city for an hour or so, stopping off at the Freemason's and then the Town Hall for a chat over tea and buncaes about government legislation and the doings of the hidd state. Nothing too antagonistic, just a few pranks and a bit of mockery. However, police jokers penned in the crowd, cordoned off the shopping area, set up road blocks, and traffic ground to a halt on Cross Street and the surrounding area...for hours! A pedal powered sound system turned up and the t-party began to warm up. Each time a route to leave the street looked clear a bunch of jokers formed a blockading line, and others began to pen in the crowd from all sides. Tactics of coercion and intimidation started to be deployed. Three people were nicked, with no pretence even of observing arresting procedure. Sensing that the angry young men were running short of patience, the parade of fool's finally and light heartedly moved along, then spotted a gap in the official lines and everybody dispersed simultaneously to the peace gardens. The crowd then headed for an old haunt, Oxford Road, but the police were now ahead of the game, and so the Parade was penned in once more. So they partied for another hour or so and finally left, safe and unharmed, dignity intact, no major battle kicked off, with 5-6,000 leaflets on the Terrorism Bill passed out to an unaware public, and a day to remember. More info about the Terrorism Bill 01273 298 192 www.blagged.free.co.uk

Medical Genetics



The Scary Bit

When they start talking about "quality" then it's time to get worried. For instance, try Dr Bob Edwards, pioneer of IVF treatment ("test-tube babies") in Britain:

Soon it will be a sin for parents to have a child which carries the heavy burden of genetic disease. We are entering a world where we have to consider the quality of our children.

OK, so most geneticists aren't as blatant as Edwards. They have worked out that human genetics has a bad 'history'. The clever ones know that anything with "genetics" in its name is suspicious, thanks to the abuse of science, the public and the environment by the GM food companies.

So they claim that the new genetics is "good science" and has nothing in common with the "bad genetics" of Nazi Germany. They hide behind "pure" science and research. They reassure us that "designer babies" and screening for the "gay gene" are out of the question. But that's not enough to convince a sceptical public.

The Comfortable Bit

So they have another, magic weapon. It's a weapon that most environmentalists haven't had to deal with. Disabled rights campaigners know the game — they've had it thrown at them for decades. The weapon is the N.H.S., or more generally health care. It's magic, because it transforms a dirty science ("genetics" = "Frankenstein foods") into something good, kind and caring ("helping sick people"). It even makes it worth throwing millions of pounds of public money at ("help us find a cure for cancer").

The Really Scary Bit

But still they talk about the "normal" genome, point to "faulty" genes, and offer "solutions" based on reducing diversity and eliminating disabled people. Sure, people born with impairments don't have an easy life: inaccessible public transport, fewer facilities, job

discrimination, social prejudice. Those are all problems we can do something about. The only "problem" identified by medical genetics is the disabled people themselves.



The Un-Comfortable Bit

So how to respond to the "we're just helping parents have healthy babies" facade. There are about four possible responses:

- 1) We can hide behind fundamentalism. It's much easier to be against pre-natal screening if you're against all abortion *per se*. It's a simplistic response. It's also abhorrent to most of us.
- 2) We can run away from confronting the geneticists. GM foods are so much easier to campaign against. Trouble is, we'll be at the bottom of the eugenics slippery slope before we know it.
- 3) We can try to respond on their own terms: We can complain about some of the more overtly eugenic scientists, but avoid challenging the underlying assumptions. We'll probably lose (but if you want to give it a go, try the 'Frequently Asked Questions' below).
- 4) Or we can try to challenge their assumptions about public health care, parental choice, normality... And we've got a secret weapon too: the alternatives. Funding limitations mean that they are, and will be, in direct opposition with the new genetics. (See 'Alternatives' box.)

Frequently Asked Questions

Aren't you just anti-science?

We're against **bad** science, that oversimplifies genetics and ignores other factors in disease. Science should not be treated like a God, untouchable and exempt from ethical debate.

Aren't you scare-mongering?

New genetics developments encourage people to think about "improving" desirable characteristics and avoiding "abnormalities." As the technology improves, the dangers of this leading to eugenics increase.

What harm does gene therapy do anyone?

Gene therapy (ie curing a living person by altering or treating their genes) does not work. It never has. This is about screening and eliminating, not curing.

Don't you want to help sick people?

Sickness is caused by many factors, but especially social and environmental degradation. Pouring money into genetics diverts resources and attention from better cures, and creates false expectations.

Are you against parental choice?

It should be an informed choice, made against the background of a society that will care for those with impairments and offer the correct support to parents. Parents want healthy babies: most pre-natal screening offers anxieties, false hopes (it's not exact or complete) and, if a "problem" is diagnosed, directive counselling.

Alternatives:

Health issues are complex and multifactorial. We would improve public health far more successfully by concentrating on the basics:

- ▷ good quality housing, increased welfare benefits, better nutrition
- ▷ less pollution, cleaner air, healthier cities
- ▷ more active lifestyles, less road transport
- ▷ reducing social and health inequalities

And as treatments for disabilities?

- Non-western and holistic medicines and therapies have delivered symptomatic relief to many, despite lack of funding.
- We should be educating society (ourselves) to accept and integrate disabled people, not trying to eliminate them.
- Most impairments are not related to genetic diseases. All the new genetics offers is increased social stigma and diversion of money (and skills).

Nipping it in the bud

And if we don't challenge the new medical genetics, and its hold on the public purse (and on university science courses), it's not long before the promise of 'therapy' will become the reality of 'elimination' — before parental 'choice' demands screening for the criminal/stupid/ugly/gay/misfit/free-thinking gene. Let's nip this one in the bud — because that's exactly what they plan to do with anyone that society happens to be unable or unwilling to cope with.

For a start, come to the National Genetix Action in Newcastle upon Tyne, 27th May

Resources & Contacts:

Women's Environmental Network: 87 Worship Street, London, EC2A 2BE, 'phone 020 7247 3327, email wenuk@gn.apc.org

The Corner House: PO Box 3137, Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1YJ, 'phone 01258 473 795, email cornerhouse@gn.apc.org, website <http://www.icaap.org/Cornerhouse/> (includes text of an excellent briefing, "If cloning is the answer, what was the question?")

GeneNo: PO Box 1TA, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1TA, website <http://www.sandyford.techie.org.uk/geneno1.html> (including booklet on the International Centre for Life in Newcastle)

GenEthics News: PO Box 6313, London, N16 0DY, website <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/genethicsnews/> (regular newsletter and good links from the website, and apols for stealing the cartoons)

EFI CONTACTS MAY 2000

Action Groups are local EFI contacts. Some of them are active groups, some of them are aspiring towards this but need more people to get in touch. Some are just people who will know what is going on direct action was in their area. The Propaganda section lists non-EFI publications which we think are worth reading. International Contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. Other Contacts are ones whose aims and principles we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups web addresses visit <http://www.efi.co.uk/>. New additions and alterations are shown in bold.

ACTION GROUPS

- Bath EFI**
c/o PO Box 426, Bath
Somerset BA1 2ZD
- Bristol EFI**
c/o Box 51
Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
0117 939 3093
- Cambridge EFI**
Box E, 12 Hill Road
Cambridge CB1 2AD
- Cheltenham EFI**
16 Portland Street
Cheltenham
Glouce. GL52 2PB
- Exeter Environ. Network**
PO Box 185
Exeter EX4 4EW
- Guildford EFI**
PO Box 217
Guildford GU1 1WS
fax 01483 203212
- Gwynedd & Mon EFI**
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1 Trevelyan Terrace
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LL57 1AX
01248 355821
afu016@bangor.ac.uk
- Hull On Earth**
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- Irwell Valley EFI**
c/o Manchester EFI
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0115 958 5666
- Oldham EFI**
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OL4 3FE
- Oxford Community Action Box E**
111 Magdalen Rd
OXFORD OX4 1RD
- Reclaim the Streets**
PO Box 9656, London
N4 4JY 0171 281 4621
<http://www.gn.apc.org/rts/>
- Reading Roadbusters**
R.I.S. Centre
35-39 London Street
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Berks RG1 4PS
0118 954 6430
roadbusters@clara.net
- Sheffield E FI**
c/o Brambles Resource Centre, 82 Andover st.
Sheffield, S3 9EH
0114 2797164
jhackhary@yahoo.co.uk
- South Devon EFI**
See Totnes Genetics Group
- Swansea People EFI**
c/o Green Action
Swansea Uni SU
Swansea, Wales
- South Wales Activism Network (SWAN)**
PO Box 70, Newport,
NP1 0YD swangroup@yahoo.co.uk
- TAPP (Tyneside Action for People & Planet)**
PO Box 17A
Newcastle NE99 1TA
- Warwick EFI**
c/o Green Society
Warwick Uni SU
Coventry CV4 7AL
suwad@cs.warwick.ac.uk
- Wildfire Collective**
PO Box 3249
Brighton BN1 4SN
- Wolves Eco Action**
c/o Wolves Hunt Subs
Wolves Uni SU
Wolverhampton
WV1 1LY
- York EFI**
c/o York LEAF
PO Box 373, York
- Activists' Legal Project**
16b Chervell St, Oxford, OX4 1TG
01865 43772
activistslegal@gn.apc.org
- Anarchist Teapot**
Mable Kitchen, Box B
Public House Bookshop
21 Little Preston Street
Brighton BN1 2HQ
- Blatant Incitement Project (outreach & small group support)**
c/o Marc EFI
doni@nematode.free
serve.co.uk
- Spirit of Freedom**
Anti-Fascist Action
BMF 1734
London WC1N 3YX
- Anti-Quarry Action (AQUA)**
Kimberly Mill Park
Kings St
TQ12 3NR
01626 363844
- CAGE (against prison building)**
07931 401 962
- Chapas Link**
Box 79, 82 Colston Street, Bristol
chapaslink@yahoo.com
- Corporate Watch**
16b Chervell St, Oxford OX4 1TG
01865 791391 mail@corporatwatch.org
- Disabled Action Network**
3 Crawley Road
Wood Green, London
N22 6AN 0181 8891361
- Leeds E FI**
Do or Die
c/o Prior House,
6 Tibbury Place,
Leicester LE2 1BH
0116 210 9652
lym@gn.apc.org
www.newworld.org/delt
- Forest Action Network**
(as for Norfolk EFI)
01603 611953
tanuk@envirolink.org
- Genetic Engineering Network (GEN)**
Box 1715
London WC1N3XX
- GenetX Snowball**
(open cork removal)
One World Centre
6 Mount Street
Manchester M2 5NS
0161 634 0235
geneticsnowball@onet.co.uk
- Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Campaign, PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 1YN**
0121 632 6460
- Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.**
PO Box 2786
Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org
- Industrial Workers of the World**
75 Humberstone Gate
Leicester LE1 1WB
- The Land is Ours**
(see Oxford EFI)
01865 432920
office@the.land.is.ours.co.uk
- Legal Defence & Monitoring Group**
BM Haven
London WC1N 3XX
0181 5337116
- Making Waves**
PO Box 1377, Sheffield
S8 4BZ 01226 764279
pp3mro@aol.com
- London GreenPeace & McLibel Support Campaign**
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
0171 713 1269
info@greenpeace.org.uk
- No OpenCast**
190 Shepherd's Bush Rd
London W6 7NL
0171 603 1831
- The Rational Trust**
(Wills, greenfields)
c/o 21 Beaulieu Close,
Swindon, SN5 8AQ
01793 059270 /
0836 734581
- Schnepps**
PO Box 2600, Brighton,
E. Sussex BN2 2DX
01273 685913
- Solidarity Federation**
PO Box 29, SW PDO,
Manchester, M15 5HW
0161 232 7889
- Subterfuge**
c/o Box E
111 Magdalen Road
Oxford OX4 1TG
01865 791391 mail@corporatwatch.org
- Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh**
17 West Montgomery
Place, Edinburgh EH7
5HA, 0131 557 6242
lohan@burn.ucsd.edu
- A-Spire (see Leeds EFI)**
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autonomous zone
- Citizen Smith**
Old Community Centre
161 College Road
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NW10 3PH
07931 985034
citizensmithuk@hotmail.com
- Keble Community Ctr**
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0117 939 9469
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- 1 in 12 Club**
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- Australian EFI AU**
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- Car Busters**
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Praha 10, Czech Rep.
+420 2781 0849
carbusters@wanadoo.fr
- RainbowKeepers**
P.O. Box 52
Kasimov 391330,
Russia
+7 09131 4 15 114
www.chel.ru?~tw
2000
- Friends of Lyminge Forest**
c/o 3 Abbott Road
Folkestone, Kent CT20
1NG 01303 257046 /
07803 1738
merlin@envirolink.org
- Golden Cross Road Camp (for Southern)**
07833191951
- 9 Ladies Anti Quarry Camp**
Lees Cross, Lees Road
Stanton Lees, Matlock
Derbyshire
http://pages.zoom.co.uk/~mnelades/

CONTACTS

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Advisory Service for Squatters**
2 Saint Pauls Road
London N1 2QN
0171 359 8814
advic@sqat.free
serve.co.uk
- ALF Supporters Group**
Box 1120
London WC1N 3XX
1003021616@compuserve.com
- Anarchist Federation**
c/o 84b Whitechapel
High Street
London E1 7GX
Act@bum.ucsd.edu
http://www.afed.org.uk

Bastille Day

On 14th July 1789, the people of Paris stormed the Bastille. On July 14th 2000 diverse and independent groups will unite, taking action against prisons and the companies behind them.

Now is an important time, private companies are building and running prisons for profit, allowing more prisons to be built and creating a huge industry that protects the powerful and the rich. Security Companies like Group4, Wakenhut and Correction Corporation of America, construction firms such as Kvaerner and Carrilion and even hotel corporations like Sodexo are fighting for contracts to build and run prisons. Hundreds of others from Microsoft to The Ecologist magazine are queuing up to exploit cheap prison workers.

Prison populations are growing, but so is our resistance. There are groups fighting on a whole range of prison, policing and asylum issues. Here is an opportunity to bring our struggles together. Around Bastille Day "CAGE" will be organising an occupation of a space related to the prison industry. They aim to transform it into a place where resistance can grow and groups of people can meet, discuss ideas, plot and scheme and promote their campaigns. They also aim to build on Bastille Day to create a broad network of groups resisting the prison industry.

CAGE is a network set up to support and create resistance to prisons. They organise with leaders to take direct action against prison building. e-mail: prison@narchy.fsnet.co.uk Bastille Day discussion list: bastilleday@narchy.fsnet.co.uk post: CAGE c/o PO Box 68, Oxford, OX3 1RH, England tel: 07931 401 962 web: www.veggies.org.uk/cage

Action Diary

APRIL

30 6pm Southbank, Critical Mass.
2pm Highbury Fields, Class of 2000 event against the Terrorism Bill. Contact 0161 2266814.

MAY

1 MAYDAY International Workers' Day, events in Norwich, Brighton, Bristol, Sheffield, Manchester, Southampton & London:
11am Parliament Square, Guerrilla Gardening.
11am Bond Street Tube, solidarity action for framed Italian revolutionaries.
<http://www.freespeech.org/mayday2k>
Glasgow:
Mayday 2000. Festival of Ideas, Action, Celebration. <http://www.mayfirst.fsnet.co.uk>
4 NVDA at British Aerospace AGM, QE II Centre, London. Contact CAAT 020 7281 0297.

6 End the Prohibition of Cannabis, Worldwide & London: 1pm march from Kennington Park
Cannabis Carnival 2pm Brockwell Park, Brixton. Contact 0171 637 7467
may2000@schmoo.co.uk
6 Day & night for the People of Iraq, London. Contact 0207 8725451 or 01865 243232.
10 Beagle Bark-In outside British Heart Foundation HQ. Contact 0181 870 3996.

12-17 Hope & Resistance Gathering on Non-violence, Oxford. rowantilly@gn.apc.org
13 Faslane Carnival - have fun and help stop Trident. Contact 01414231222/ 0132 4880744.

13 International day of action for Mumia Abu Jamal. Contact 020 7538 5821
18-25 Aldermaston TP2000 camp. Contact 01324 880744 22. Blockade Aldermaston, 6am. 01603 493091/01865 725991/07967819514

20 National Demo at Huntingdon Life Sciences vivisection labs, Cambridgeshire. Contact 0121 632 6460.

26-29 Women Speak Out weekend gathering, Londn. Contact 0181 374 9885.
27 National Day of Action against British Heart Foundation. Contact 0181 870 3966.

27 Reclaim Life action at opening of International Centre for Life, Newcastle. Contact 0797 479 1841.

27 EPIAU weekend for past and present editors. Contact AU mobile.

JUNE

3 Mass Moon at Buckingham Palace, 3pm
moveagainstmon@hotmail.com
7-11 Earth First! Summer Gathering, N.Wales
summergathering@yahoo.co.uk
30-July 2 Big Blether 2, Scottish Direct
Action/eco-campaigning gathering. Contact, 0131 557 6242.

JULY

14 Bastille Day Action, CAGE. Contact 07931 401962
15 Protest Naked at New Scotland Yard, 2pm
The Freedom to be Yourself, 208 Foleshill Rd, Coventry, CV1 4JH

AUGUST

1 Faslane/Coulport Blockade. Contact 01324 880744.

Regular Events

Continuous, Faslane: Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland G84 8NT; 01436-820901.

Every Monday, London, 5.30-7pm: vigil outside the Foreign Office, Whitehall (corner of King Charles St. SW1) calling for the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq. The vigil has been held for 8 1/2 years. Org. ARROW. Tel. David, 0171-607 2302.

Every Tuesday, Birmingham, 4.30-6pm: vigil on Victoria St. for lifting of sanctions against Iraq. Info: 0121-523 0036.

Every Wednesday, Coventry, 5-7pm: vigil for lifting of sanctions against Iraq, at Belgrade Theatre. 01203-663031.

Every Wednesday, Manchester, 12.30-1pm: vigil for lifting of Iraqi sanctions, in St Peter's Square. Org. Salford CND, 01942-894862.

Every Friday, London, 8pm: London Anarchist Forum meeting at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1. Info. Peter, 0181-847 0203.

Every Saturday, London, noon-2pm: vigil for the release of Vanunu, Kensington High St, opposite the end of Palace Green W5, near the Israeli Embassy. (Tube: Kensington High St) Held for over 8 years. Details: Campaign to Free Vanunu, 0171-378 9324.

Every Saturday, Cambridge, noon-1.30pm: vigil against Iraqi sanctions outside Guildhall in Market Place. Contact Janet, 01954-719644.

1st Sat. ev. 2nd month, Menwith Hill, 2pm: Quaker mtg for worship. Info Anni, 01943-466405

2nd full weekend each month, Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp at Falcon Gate. Info, 0117-939 3746.

2nd Sunday every month, Molesworth, afternoon Molesworth Gardeners. Info: Ti-Pi, 6 Warden Hill Close. Luton, Beds. LU2 7AQ

3rd weekend each month, Menwith Hill weekend gathering. Fri pm-Sun noon. Info: 01943-466825
Last Saturday of each month, Campfield, noon-2pm demo outside refugee detention centre, Oxfordshire. Tel. 01865-558145/726804/722357.
Last full weekend every other month, Sellafeld women's peace camp. Info Tracy 0113-262 1534

The Editors of the Earth First! Action Update do not intend to encourage people to carry out any illegal action. The Action Update is for information purposes only.

Blackout Campsfield

On Saturday 25th March, people took down the main electric supply cables at Campsfield Detention Centre, Kidlington near Oxford. The aim was to cause major inconvenience to the running of the private detention centre. Safety precautions were taken because of the very high voltage involved and no injuries resulted.

Unfortunately the cables refused to snap, despite the pole holding them up being destroyed. The lights didn't go out during the action, but the electricity supply will have to be shut off to enable the thousands of pounds of damage to be repaired. Campsfield House holds around 200 men, most of whom are political refugees. It is run for profit, as a high security prison, by Group 4, on behalf of the Immigration Service. People are being held without charge, without time limit, without proper reasons given and without decent access to legal representation. An Amnesty International report says that these are breaches of internationally recognised human rights.

Wiser Monkeys in Sheffield

A new squat community centre, Wiser Monkeys, has opened in Sheffield. The squat is part of the run up to the Sheffield mayday celebrations. The opening party was a rip roaring success, and the plan is to be open for at least three weeks, with the Sheffield mayday festivities happening at the end of the second week. For those visiting the address is 140 & 148 Devonshire Street, Sheffield. jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk or phone the squat on 0114 281 2814

Close Down Huntingdon Life Sciences

On World Day for Lab Animals (22 April) around 2000 people, dressed in black from head to foot and wearing skull masks, went to Huntingdon Life Sciences vivisection labs in Cambridgeshire. After drumming, music and emotional speeches, some people cut through the fence around the lab with bolt cutters, and around 150 people surged inside. A second fence of razor wire was crushed to the ground, and a makeshift bridge over a large ditch was constructed using an old gate. Once inside the grounds, some people got in with the animals, while others managed to get into the labs where workers were shaken up by coming face to face with demonstrators. Two people scaled the roof of the building. Police seemed to be fairly laid-back, and when they realised what was happening they just pushed people back out of the hole they had come through, with few arrests. The crowd then blocked the A1, bringing traffic to a standstill, and also blocked the A14 roundabout. At a BP petrol station 7 windows of a McDonalds were smashed, with staff later saying they were unable to identify who did it because of the masks. Later on, the house of two Huntingdon workers, who have said publicly that they're proud of what they do for a living, was visited by a group of about 20 people. More info from Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (see Contacts)

Contact us at: EFAU, P.O. Box 1TA, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA
0797 4791841 <actionupdate@gn.apc.org>
www.eco-action.org/efau
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(When sending us articles, please enter 'article' in the subject line.)

Stop the Rubbish Rat

Residents of Gartocher Terrace in Glasgow are running a direct action campaign to stop William 'Rubbish Rat' Combe moving his waste disposal business into the quiet street. Residents, including children, and supporters staged a sit in at freemason Combe's chief allies H.Q. - the local police station. More recently, Combe's skip lorries were stopped from entering the street for 2 days by an ingenious blockade which included a pallet loaded with bricks suspended above the road, and a community caravan which has been bought by the residents.

At the end of March, the 'Rubbish Rat' brought a skip lorry smelling like the sewers down the street. A resident went out to video as Glasgow City Council had said this was the only evidence they'd accept. Police grabbed and confiscated the camera, arrested the resident for 'taking unwanted photographs,' and then held him for 24 hours, escorting the skip through. Later that day, 7 children in the street contracted gastroenteritis and one was hospitalised. On April 6th, two supporters from Faslane Peace Camp were arrested after one tried to defend himself from being hit by Combe. Local police have proved again to be the best police money can buy. Since this incident, Combe has brought no more full skips through, but may do so at any time. Help is needed and there is plenty to do, from blockading, to demos, to researching links between Combe and the council. Tel: 07979 836 223.

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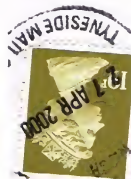


Gardeners love a challenge.

From: EFAU,
PO Box 1TA, Newcastle
NE99 1TA, England

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Earth First! Action Update

Issue 69 June-July 2000



T/SOR/4/1/LB
The Monthly Round up of
Ecological, and Other, Direct
Action from Around Britain

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar principles to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

"Leave it! The country is too old to be mucked around." Kevin Buzzacott



SHEFFIELD REVIVED

On the 21st-22nd May, the people of Pittsmore took over a derelict garage in the centre of what is a very deprived region of Sheffield.

God knows how long the garage stood empty, but many of the shops around are boarded over, with a frightening amount of used needles lying around.

People took over the garage on Saturday afternoon, bringing music laughter and paint. The first job was clearing the rubbish. Then they brought out the sofas and turfed the forecourt. For the rest of the day, people danced against the destruction and depression in their area. Murals now cover the walls of the garage. The sign reads 'Sunny Spital, Hooray!' (after Spital Hill where the garage is).

The mixture of people involved was fantastic. Local community activists and local EF'ers alongside passers by and concerned people from the area. They received a great deal of support from local shops. One gave them free food, and asked if they would do it every weekend.

The garage is on a busy main road and no one passed by without looking at our celebration of the area. 'Reclaim the Satyagraha' also held their second organising meeting there.

There are many derelict buildings in the area so the reclaimers will probably be back for another weekend in the sun.

Contact : Sheffield EF! (also see www.satyagraha.org)

SQUATTED VILLAGE

In the Basque country a community has squatted five abandoned medieval villages in ruins. In 1995 they started the projects, trying to produce their own food and break the links to the capitalist economy more and more. Inside the community they try to avoid reproducing patriarchal structures and to live in accordance with nature.

This spring two of the villages got orders of eviction. The government of Nafarroa intends to evict and destroy the villages, including the rebuilt houses, by machines in order to avoid new occupations. This attempt is expected in June or July, most likely in the first half of July. They are preparing for non-violent resistance. Activists are invited to go to the Pyrenees and join them

Postal address: Artanga, Rala, E-31430 Aoiz, Nafarroa E.H. artanga@gmx.net

BLACKPOOL EMERGENCY! 30 DAYS IN OCCUPATION

The Leys Farm and Allotments Action group in Blackpool are fighting to save their site from 'development'. It is a mixed area of open land and personal allotments. Their third application to have the site designated as a Town Green has been accepted. However, Barratts still moved in with the bulldozers and razed most of the wooded area to the ground. Defenders are sitting on the site (and have been in occupation for over thirty days!) but are urgently in need of others to stay as well. Most have jobs and are no longer young and are beginning to feel the strain.

Eviction notices have been given. There's a county court appearance on the 9th June, with hopes for a favourable outcome. People are needed to occupy the site as long as possible while the process of town green application is going through.

Contact : 01253 351765, 01253 313777, 01253 596383, or 01253 356821.

OCCUPATION OF MAFF (MINISTRY OF FARMS 'n FISH)

On Tuesday 23rd May, concerned members of the public from all over the country descended in a madly spontaneous action, on the MAFF building in Smith Square, London. At precisely 2 pm, six respectable looking people calmly walked into the foyer, sat down on the floor and proceeded to form a circle attaching themselves together with lock-ons i.e. attached to each others wrists with carabinas and chain down drain-pipes. One person in the circle was also attached to a door to prevent the circle being moved. Another activist locked on, with a d-lock around his neck, to the front door. A support person who wasn't locked on was allowed to stay inside with them. Messages written on the drainpipes read 'MAFF loves Advanta', 'Wot no democracy?', 'Another MAFF-GAFF' etc

Outside four activists braved the rain holding a banner with 'Pull up and Pay Up' as well as signs that stated that 'GAFF was closed due to dishonesty, deception and undemocratic behaviour over the genetic contamination of the Countryside'.

There then followed six hours of interesting conversation with the four van-loads of riot cops that turned up about everything from allotments and corporate control to the merits of organic chocolate. Despite ruthless singing of the entire 'Seize the Day' repertoire, we realised that the Minister responsible, Nick Brown, would not come and meet with us.

It was a model of elegant British civil disobedience with no arrests and no confiscation of equipment. It was fun, simple, empowering and made national media as well as providing an outlet for some of the deep frustrations and concerns of the people that took part.

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting in the road are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists.

NEWS IN BRIEF

★ On 7th May, under a blanket of gray haze, drivers from more than 10 unions drive slowly, clogging downtown Hong Kong traffic to demand more government help for them to cut air pollution. The nearly 30 protesters, in about 20 taxis, trucks, minibuses and tour buses, took about an hour to drive 2.8 miles through the business district, slowing the late morning traffic.

★ Primal Seeds have produced a complete list of all GE test sites for this Spring. It includes farm scale and small scale trials, plus grid refs, addresses and info on crops being tested this will be regularly updated on the website. www.primalseeds.org/testsite.htm If anyone can help with addresses of remaining sites get in touch.

★ On 7th May, after an organic picnic, 200 people in Franc-Waret, South Belgium, walked joyfully to Monsanto's experimental farm where they entered the fields and destroyed several parcels of maize and canola while a rock band played on a truck behind.

★ On May 19, hundreds of Indonesians protested against nine factories in Surabaya, accusing them of dumping toxic waste in a nearby river – the main water supply. They blocked over 8,000 workers from entering the factories, which produce detergent, colouring products etc. Hundreds of riot police stood by.

★ On the same day, over a thousand workers from PT Freeport were blocked from their office by a group of 50. They were protesting the mining company's environmental record, notably at its massive Grasberg copper and gold mine in Irian Jaya.

★ Action against the Toll Motorway (ATOM) are planning a series of picnics on the route of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, beginning on Saturday July 1st. A high turnout would boost the campaign and show Midland Expressway and the Highways Agency that protesters still mean business. There'll be football, cricket, music and all the usual banners etc.

Contact: AtOM 07818 687742

★ Solidari@s con loiz held an international gathering in the Basque Country over the 12-14 May in protest at the destructive and illegal loiz dam project and in solidarity with the eight solidari@s who are facing nearly five years in prison for their part in the action which stopped the project for eight months. People came from all over Europe to take part in a demonstration and a weekend of events, learning more about each others common struggles and our links across the globe. The SOS loiz tour of Europe will come to its conclusion soon – messages of solidarity can be sent to solidia

★ On 5th May, the 4th anniversary of the Pure Genius land occupation, a peaceful pavement protest took place at the site entrance. This was a protest at the Wandsworth council's go-ahead for five new tower blocks, as if any more were needed.

WELSH ANTI-TERRORISTS

May 6th saw a great anti-Terrorism Bill demo on Bangor high street. About 50 people representing at least 12 different direct action groups including Cymdeithas y Iaith (the Welsh language society), Gwynedd and Mon EF!, Gwynedd Stop the Ilawks, animal rights activists etc etc-funked on down the high street to the sexy sound of Samba Bangor. Speakers from the above groups and others, many of whom have already done incredible stretches of time for having the guts to stand up and be counted, called the bill Fascism, said that IT was terrorising US, etc- a very empowering event. Several Plaid Cymru MP's and Assembly members have voiced concerns in the Welsh Assembly about the bill. Wales has an incredible history of direct action and they don't want to lose it!!! A strong NONVIOLENT coalition against the bill is forming... for more info email bangor-werdd@groups.com

ASPE VALLEY CAMP

A fresh beginning for the 12 years of resistance to the E7 motorway in the beautiful Aspe valley in the south of France has arrived. On May 7th there was an anti road demonstration with 3000 people which ended with the construction of a tree house camp, directly on the destruction site.

It took the state 1½ days to evict this first camp. At the 1½th eviction some 100 cops and the Prefect (regional head of government) showed up. The camps' trees were cut immediately. However, a new base camp has been erected again! This has been built on land that's not been confiscated yet and still quite near to where construction work will take place soon. At the moment some 15 people are inhabiting the camp. Help is needed!

Permanent campsite/info point La Goutte D' Eau, Cette Eygun Pyrénées, France; tel: 0033 (0) 672634905
lagoutte@eudoraimail.com

SPEAKING PIE TO POWER



For those who don't yet know, the Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB) are an international network of Pie-rect Action resistance to neoliberalism, politicians and sell-out NGO 'leaders'. This year's lucky recipients of pies have included the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Michel Camdessus, and the creator of Dolly the cloned sheep, Keith Campbell.

As Agent Apple explains, "This uprising has its roots in the belief that our planet is not dying, it is being killed; and the ones doing the killing have names and faces." <http://www.asis.com/~bbb/index.html>

1. Anne Widdecombe, 27. April
Shadow Home Secretary Anne Widdecombe was spectacularly pied while signing copies of her first book in Oxford. A custard tart, made to a traditional Romany recipe, was delivered by Agent Orange of the Campsfield High Command of the BBB.

Agent Custard Tart, who targeted the shadow Home Secretary because of her attitude towards refugees, said: "The Conservatives are stigmatising asylum seekers in a cheap bid to gain votes that would probably otherwise go to the BNP. The overwhelming majority of people seeking asylum are people who have faced oppression – even torture and other violence, discrimination and deprivation in the country they have left. We should be welcoming them and offering them refuge; as common decency and international law demand."

A man was charged with using threatening words and behaviour and a woman with assault and affray. The custard-stained books sold well.

For information on refugee support, contact: National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC), 110 Hamstead Road, Birmingham, B20 2QS 0121 5546947, ncadc@ncadc.demon.co.uk.

2. David Icke

British anti-semitic conspiracy theorist (and ex-Green Party candidate) David Icke was pied during a press conference/book-signing in Canada. As well as claiming that the world is run by shape-shifting reptiles (possibly from Mars), Icke uses historical right-wing anti-semitic theories like The Protocols of the Elders of Zion and has also praised the research of British Holocaust denier David Irving.

The book-signing/press conference was interrupted when three protesters, two dressed as lizards, one with an alien hand puppet, entered the store and proceeded to ridicule Icke. While being heckled for his anti-semitic views by the alien hand puppet, Icke was suddenly creamed by two lemon-meringue pies. While the pretossers fled, the lizards and hand-puppet were aggressively confronted by Icke's Followers. All escaped unscathed, leaving a cream covered mess of bigotry and nuttiness behind.

The pies were selected for their flaky crusts. Flaky pies for a flaky guy.

ACTIONS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

1. Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty are currently seeking a £200 million loan from the Department of Trade & Industry to build the Ilisu Dam in the Kurdish region of Turkey. This will evict 25,000 people, destroy towns and villages and threaten conflicts with Syria and Iraq over water flows.

Fifty members of the Ilisu Dam campaign stripped off in the Annual General Meeting, revealing 'Stop the Ilisu Dam' across their T-shirts, and asked the board members questions about ethical and environmental responsibility. The board members fled and Group 4 security grappled with the protesters.

Contact: Ilisu Dam Campaign, Box 210, 266 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2. 01865 200 550, ilisu@gn.apc.org

2. Rio Tinto, 12. May

The notorious Rio Tinto mining company is currently polluting and violating human rights in such places as Kelian, Indonesia, where the local community is demanding compensation for land, crops and property.

A statement from the Kelian community association (LKMTL) was read out at their AGM, despite the local police preventing the community representative from attending. Tinto's chairman claimed the corporation was very concerned, but made no suggestions on resolving the situation. The Chairman of the South African Mineworkers Union and others also spoke on behalf of other countries where conditions were bad.

Contact: Partizans, 41a Thornhill Square, London N1. 020 7700 6189, partizans@gn.apc.org

3. British Aerospace, 4. May

BAe exports arms to every dodgy dictatorship and war machine it can.

Activists at their AGM caused 30 minutes of disruption by tying themselves together. Many were removed, but those who remained kept the pressure on board members with awkward questions.

LIVERPOOL RECLAMATION

A community event will take place in Liverpool on Saturday June 17th, involving the reclamation of unused land, a temporary moderation of the assault by cars on our daily lives, and an afternoon spent networking/mooching in the park. Then a benefit in the evening.

Spikey it won't be - all are welcome with pushchairs, propaganda, flapjacks and cans. Local accommodation can be arranged when you get there.

Lark Lane (look out for the lollipop people) Liverpool 17 - 1pm onwards.

Buses from City centre: 32, 82 from bombed-out church. Train: to St Michaels station from Liverpool central. Walk: ask for Princes Park then Lark Lane



Simultaneous protests took place at BAe sites around the country. In Usk, activists blockaded the Glascoed munitions factory, bringing traffic to a standstill on the main road between Usk and Pontypool. They were told that they were breaking the law but replied that they were there to uphold international law, in preventing the manufacture of weapons which would be used illegally to murder innocent civilians.

Contact: CAAT (see contacts page)

4. Premier Oil, 15. May

Premier Oil held their AGM in London on 15th May. A large number of Human Rights campaigners joined the usual company directors and shareholders to highlight the corporation's complicity in the ongoing human rights disaster in Burma.

Their latest project involves the construction of a major pipeline throughout Burma stretching to the Thai border. Facing tough questioning in the AGM, Charles Jamieson, chief executive, reckoned that the company's presence in the country was actually helping to bring about necessary change!

Essential to the oil development programme is a railway being built entirely by slave labour, with children often as young as 10 making up a significant part of the workforce.

Those not working to 'standard' are punished by torture and death. Human Rights studies estimate that 60,000 people a day are forced to work on the railway, and that every 18 months around 300 die. So there we have it, Premier Oil, a prime example of a multinational corporation working for the good of the people.

Contact: Burma Action Group, Bickerton House, 25 27 Bickerton Rd, London N19 5JT
<http://www.freeburmacoalition.org>

PYLON WARS

The Cork Harbour Anti Pylon Group is fighting the construction of Overhead High Voltage Power Lines in The Cork Harbour Area on the South Coast of Ireland. The pylons have now been held up for 4 and a half years, with legal challenges and the support of UK eco-activists. The High Court soon adjourns for the summer recess, so things should remain peaceful for now. For latest info, visit www.cobhantipylon.com

A telephone line is Sligo, Ireland, was cut down in January, apparently with a chainsaw. Analysts say this is a departure from previous methods of cutting down masts: The hard men of Ulster prefer petrol driven angle grinders and they do it with tractors down in Tippi.

HMP OLNEY ACTION

About 30 people occupied the construction site of the new HMP Olney on 30 May. Cranes and other machinery were sat on, offices were occupied and work came to a standstill for an afternoon. Police were very late to arrive, and protesters had ample time to leave with arrests.

Olney is one of 3 new prisons under construction in the UK. Group 4 and Carillon, formerly the construction arm of Tarmac, (who built Cookham Woods kid Prison) are building it next door to a secure training centre and a young offenders institute, both of which house young people.

Contact: Cage (contacts page) and see Diary Dates for Bastille Day actions.

RECLAIM LIFE

Anti-genetics campaigners and disabled activists converged on the multimillion pound genetics showcase the International Centre for Life (ICFL), on Saturday 27th May in Newcastle. The protest coincided with the opening of the "LIFE Interactive World" visitors centre.

Media reports before the day warned of "infiltration by violent anarchists" and in most cases gave more coverage to the concerns of protestors than the Centre for Life. The police and security were out in force, and briefly prevented the funeral march marking the death of human and bio-diversity entering the square, until they were sure the coffin was empty.

The opening ceremony was a pathetic sight, attended by about 50 people including Carol "it's the best science exhibition I've ever seen" Vorderman, who was met by her clones branding the ICFL "Frankenstein's Castle". Others were dressed in Gestapo uniforms highlighting the links between Nazi-style eugenics and human genetic engineering.

A small number of visitors continued to trickle in throughout the day and were handed leaflets presenting an alternative perspective on the Centre's activities.

In the square outside the theme-park, demonstrators played football and a giant game of snakes and ladders to show there is more to life than reductionist science and big-business.

Based on the poor turnout of visitors or its over-hyped opening day, it seems very likely that the LIFE attraction will fail on its own terms, if similar public wastes of money such as the Dome are anything to go by. Some of the visitors leaving the centre told protestors it was "a total waste of £6.95". Leafletting outside the Centre will continue over the coming weeks.

For a more detailed critique of the Centre for Life which goes beyond media soundbites, get a copy of GeneNo's booklet "International Centre for Lies", available from GeneNo, PO Box 1TA, NI99 1TA.

MAYDAY is RED for international workers day, GREEN for Beltane - the ancient fire and fertility festival that signals rebirth, and BLACK for the anarchists executed on MayDay 1886.

MAY DAY FOR THE UK



ABERDEEN

In Aberdeen, there were demonstrations at both McDonalds, then after the dinner rush at Starbucks coffee house. All went well at McDonalds, where some staff even came out and read the literature. Feeling quite successful, the protesters decided at 2 o'clock to move to Starbucks. Again there was no trouble, and the demonstrators hope that they managed to get across their message.

GLASGOW

More than 1,000 protesters reclaimed the streets of Glasgow with a colourful parade around the city centre, ending in Kelvingrove Park. Peaceful protesters also marched in Edinburgh.

BRISTOL

There were gnomes, kids, sunshine and giant puppets in Bristol. Eco-activists cleaned the windows of various capitalist targets such as McDonalds, NatWest and Burger King. One of the window cleaners explained "It's a metaphor. We want to make it clear these are dirty companies." The eco-activists also handed out seeds "to be planted anywhere" whilst five people climbed up a monument/modern-art/structure and hung various banners.

Any 'enquiries' or concerns about the September 26 global day of action should be directed to other activists in the group, city, country or on the various mailing lists, for us to mutually help each other with ideas and advice. There is no-one in charge or pulling the strings for the day. It will be a radically decentralised and non-hierarchical event entirely of our own creation in co-operation and solidarity with one another.

NEEDED: Translators !!! To make S26 information available in every language, especially Spanish, French, German, Russian, Arabic, Dutch, and Chinese.

http://x21.org/s26 OR http://go.to/s26

The next international meeting to co-ordinate and info exchange will take place in Prague - starting on the 16th of June

If you wish to come e-mail h.summers@merseyrail.com

PRAGUE IN SEPTEMBER

On September 26-28 the IMF and World Bank are holding their 55th annual summit in Prague. A mass mobilisation of people to Prague is beginning, while peoples around the world will join together in an expression of solidarity with the demonstrators in Prague.

A public international contacts list is regularly posted in order to facilitate decentralized and non-hierarchical networking. To have your contact information added to it, please contact <resistance@x21.org>, indicating (a) the country and location in which you plan to take action, plus any other information you see fit, for instance (b) the name of your group, coalition or yourself, (c) the events or actions being planned, (d) your land address, (e) email address, (f) telephone number, (g) fax number or (h) web site.

adjacent AMEC construction site, to climb up scaffolding above the police and crowd, as the Inspector announces "You'll be allowed to leave in small groups after giving your details, whe... HOLD THAT LINE!" as people surged through the lines of riot cops

People dispersed to rest up before the night's entertainment. A couple of dozen police in vans staked out the free party meeting point, but didn't notice dribs and drabs of people being led off. A little later, a mass of over 200 set off by the classiest route ever, silently snaking over land where their vans couldn't follow, in the darkness, together, to Mayday's secret free party celebration. They arrived at the Hacienda unnoticed by police, despite the CCTV just outside the world famous ex-club, to party the night away. Graffiti inside from the first time we squatted it was updated to "People - 2, Police - 0". Some people were arrested when they left, but most left en masse and walked free.

On Thursday 4th the Hacienda was still occupied. After another night's party, the police left the site alone. Before the building was vacated, huge banners covered the front of the building proclaiming "Anarchy", "Hac the System", "Resist", "We are Everywhere - www.capitalismsucks.co.uk, and "Police Mutiny Now".

Arrests - 35, mainly various minor charges. Police impounded a van, & imposed a Section 60 (CJA extra stop & search powers) on the whole city centre.

SHEFFIELD

Sheffield's Mayday was on Saturday 29th April and was summed up by one participant as a "Perfect Day". Estimates of people range from 800 to 1500.

The day started with a GM action on a branch of the co-op supermarket whose cheques bore the lovely slogan "Products contain GM so we don't have to use animal products." aah how nice.

Next came an animal rights demo against Natwest funding Huntingdon Life Sciences. Tapes of tortured animals were played to passers by, while the manager got very pissed off. His branch is the scene of regular animal rights demos.

Then things got surreal with about thirty people dressed in as highway men descended on a super tram stop in the town centre. For about an hour, to the sounds of Adam & the Ants' every tram was stopped and leaflets were given out saying why transport should be free and why it is wrong that stagecoach (the owners of supertram) use the money they cream of the public to fund a bigoted homophobic campaign.

MANCHESTER

The seaside came to the city. Sticks of red, black and green rock, with **Resistance** is **Sweet** running through the middle were given out to passers-by, a revolutionary seaside band entertained the masses and sancy seaside political postcards were delivered. There was a coconut shy where people got to 'knock politicians' blocks off, and a cut-out copper to stick your head through for a seaside photo.

At 2pm, crowds began to gather at Piccadilly Gardens, with banners, music and the usual police helicopter, mounted police, evidence gathers etc.

By 3pm, up to 20 small autonomous groups had slipped away from the 500-strong crowd for **Challenge Anarchy**, a 'treasure hunt' each facilitated by an Anarchy Rice, targeting many places with their action pack of leaflets, flyposters, paste, chalk and spray cans.

There ensued: Shell blockades; many McDonalds occupied, leafleted or shut down, supermarkets targeted for genetics (food and GM cotton) and general nastiness; fake £20 notes dished out, with slogans included; cash machines 'melted'; a 'slave auction'; Disney (sweat & child labour), Starbucks (sponsoring globalisation), Reed & other employment agencies (casualisation & resultant insecurity & deaths) and NatWest (investment in animal abuse & general banking) visited, seeds and saplings guerrilla gardened; spoof TV show making people spend exactly their £10 asylum-seeker voucher; anti-mass media 'The Lies' newspaper mock-up and actions; Fidelity Investments (investing in Occidental's attack on the Columbian U'Wa people) 'muralised'; Stagecoach buses stopped, leafleted and rolled under by disabled activists & others (Clause 28-support, few buses accessible, & anti-worker, rural routes, high fares etc Stagecoach monopolisation); general anti-consumerist, -advertising and -CCTV propaganda & shops closed down; plus "Unite, Resist, Celebrate" Mayday leaflets, and much chalking, stickering, subvertising and painting.

Meanwhile, the main crowd went for a roving RTS through the city centre, followed by the cops and free food. Crowds divided up and rushed through police lines, defending themselves with wheelie-bin obstacles from horse charges, finding ways out, dividing and recombining, reoccupying briefly the Mancunian (motor)Way, closing down other city centre roads, until they were penned in near the Oxford Road McDonalds. 40 people entered the

This is where the guerrilla gardening action took place, helped by the police watering the grass in advance. The street was reclaimed and turf laid out in the shape of Great Britain. Paving slabs were dug up, plants were planted and a merry festival began. Only plastic trowels and manual effort went into this action: materials were carried by hand and by bike, there were no big secrets, just what the people there made of it. Giant sculptures of Bill and Ben, the Flowerpot men, overlooked open mic debates about revolution, while dancers waltzed round a Maypole in the shadow of Big Ben.

Meanwhile, however, crowds had followed a samba band up Whitehall to Trafalgar Square, and didn't return. A McDonald's and a money exchange office were trashed, a nice spectacle for the crowds of cameras surrounding it. Various statues were graffitied, except for Genral Montgomery's - a delicate display of



flowers was instead placed at his feet. Then the police (in the background before now) moved in and split the Trafalgar Square crowd from those at Parliament Square (who continued their festival in peace). The crowd was ringed in Trafalgar Square, bottles were thrown and people were no longer allowed out, creating a long and boring stand-off.

The crowd at Parliament Square was now also sealed in, where discussions through the open mics ended in the decision to leave en masse. The crowd (politely) pushed through the police line and walked down Millbank cheering and clapping. Police lined the exits along the route, and the crowd kept getting blocked in, and was separated when crossing a bridge. Some vehicles were trashed along the route. It ended up in Kennington Park, with tensions high and skirmishes with police. Some people made the effort to defuse the situation, and a football match next to the police lines helped the tension dissipate.

The people in Trafalgar Square were kept penned in for hours, and only allowed out one by one.

Another guerrilla gardening action took place at Hackney Marshes (East London), where people organised an occupation and children gardened happily.

THE CONFERENCE

The anti-capitalist conference passed off without a hitch, and with satisfied participants all round. Workshops bashed out theoretical and strategic arguments, while the relaxed venue allowed much mungling and meeting between like-minded people.

AROUND THE WORLD

Actions, demo's and celebrations took place all round the world on this day, the traditional day of pagan celebration and solidarity amongst the oppressed of capitalism. 15,000 marched in S.Korea, 10,000 in Ankara, Turkey. 10,000 fought police in Berlin, where one Swiss Anarchist was killed. The Dutch killed their Queen. We can't list it all here, but try these websites: . . . www.indymedia.org www.reclaimthestreets.net www.freepress.org/mayday2k

ACTION REPORTS

LONDON

There were strong, colourful critical mass contingents of cyclists, both on Friday evening and Monday morning. The weekend also saw an anarchist football match and a tour of the East End's anarchist heritage.

Actions on Monday began with Animal Action handing out free veggie burgers outside McDonalds on the Strand. Meanwhile around 6000 people were gathering at Parliament Square, supported by critical mass cyclists and with great banners strung between the trees: 'The Earth is a Common Treasury for All'.

GOLDEN CROSS EVICTED

The protest site at Golden Cross Road, Essex, set up to oppose the destruction of woodland to make way for luxury houses was evicted on Friday 12th May. Bailiffs entered the site on the Tuesday, taking control of the camp's squatted bungalow and the last protestor was brought down from the trees on Friday. Developers Wilcon Homes Ltd have ordered the felling of the woodland to commence, despite this being in contravention of planning regulations which stated that no trees would be touched between March and July due to Wildlife Act restrictions. The protestors appeared in Southend court on Friday, 1st June with their cases adjourned. The developer in question is Wilcon Homes <http://www.ukpg.co.uk/wilcon/home1.html> part of Wilson Connolly Holdings plc. The Ashingdon site has also been evicted.

Contact: Golden Cross Action Group 01702 541 267;



10 YEARS OF CAMDEN

10th of May was 5 years since the party, on Camden High Street. 500 cars still choke the shoppers' routes of Camden. Squeezing is onto narrow, congested streets.

Camden residents have declared that they have had enough, and decided every weekend to (dis)organise actions to remove the automobiles off of THEIR street. The intention is to block cars, through any non-violent, non damaging means possible, and reclaim Camden High Street for pedestrians and shoppers.

They invite the community to organise itself. It is hoped that this will become a characteristic of Camden, with space at the very heart of Camden for people to revel, enjoy themselves and generally live. Every weekend, from 10 till approx. 6ish (or whenever people disappear). **Contact:** camdenautonomists@microsuxx.com

NEW CAMPAIGN FROM THE LAND IS OURS: Legacy of Slavery & Imperialism

TLIO will shortly be launching a new campaign that makes the connection between the original looting of human and natural resources by slave traders and the roots of economic imperialism enjoyed by multinationals at the start of the 21st century.

Over the next 12 months, The Land Is Ours will be seeking to raise public awareness of this new campaign. We plan to openly invite businesses and families who profited from the slave trade to pledge their backing for this campaign, in the form of some high profile actions.

If you want to join up with this campaign, then you can subscribe to the following e-mail discussion list: LegacyofImperialism@egroups.com. web-site: <http://www.oneworld.org/tlio>.

THE THREAT TO DARTMOOR

Many Dartmoor walks start at Cadover bridge. Yet this favourite area is a landscape under threat of destruction. The clay industry wishes to excavate a super quarry in the Blackabrook Valley, a wild and attractive tributary of the river Plim and to dump millions of tons of clay waste on Shaugh moor and Crownhill Down.

Two companies have applied for environmental impact assessments. These might not be completed until the end of the year. Afterwards, there's an interval of 16 weeks before any action can happen.

Contact: Dartmoor Preservation Association 01822 890646

Contact us at: EPIAU, P.O. Box 1TA Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA 0797 4791841 actionupdate@gn.apc.org www.eco-action.org/efau **Subscribe to email edition for free.**

STREET PARTIES

Glasgow: A successful street parade and party was held with over 100 people on Sat 27 May which finished at Gartocher Terrace, Glasgow, after going via Shettleston Police Station. It was cup final day so there were no police (often 200 odd officers have been at much smaller demos/blockades).

Later in the day, Combes waste yard got trashed: fencing, CCTV, a window, lights plus two tasteful stone eagles were repositioned. C.I.D. have since made door-to-door enquiries about the vandalism.

Contact: 07979 836223 to talk to residents of Gartocher Terrace fighting to stop a waste disposal business invading their street.

Dublin: Dublin, May 27, Ireland's very first reclaim the streets...

By three o'clock Dublin traffic was brought to a standstill as hundreds streamed onto the bottom of O'Connell Bridge. Banging drums, dancing and singing in the pissing rain, they held the road for an hour before being shoved off. Then they paraded through the town, blocking the traffic for another hour or so before the rain got too much.

It had all started with a lot of confusion that morning because two different locations were given for the RTS. Only a handful had turned up at 12noon - the original kick off time. By two o'clock though, hundreds had gathered at the bottom of O'Connell St, eagerly waiting for the right time to block the road. They knew by then that the bouncery castle definitely wasn't happening. But it didn't matter once a banger car was equipped with a sound system.

As people rolled the car down to block the bridge, they could hear the drums and cheers of hundreds streaming onto the road. "Reclaim the Streets" banners blowing wildly, they danced onto the street, whooping, hollering, blowing bubbles to the surprised, immobile cars on O'Connell Bridge. What a beautiful sight in the fair city!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EF! ACTION UPDATE



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at a minimum of £5 for 12 issues. Send more if you can afford it so we can give free subscriptions to prisoners, etc. Cheques payable to Earth First! Action Update. Remember security; false names and a collect or c/o address are advised.



☐ If the circle is ticked then your subscription has run out - Please renew it NOW!

Overview

From Kosov@ to Seattle: what role for nonviolent action? is being organised by War Resisters'

International and a coalition of British groups and individuals to bring together British and international activists to reflect on the events of 1999, share experiences and hold discussions that will hopefully increase our effectiveness in future activity.

Kosov@

In a broad range of activist circles, 1999 will be remembered as the year that NATO declared war against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and began a bombing campaign that resulted in the destruction of both civilian and military infrastructure. Lauded by politicians and the media as a successful "humanitarian intervention", the war set new precedents in the interpretation of international law, in the control of the media, and in the political and operational policies of NATO itself. The long-term work of antimilitarists and peace projects in the region, the solidarity actions of radical anti-war activists further afield, and the alternative perspectives they collectively provide, have largely been ignored.

Africa

1999 will also be remembered as the year in which the first so-called "All-African War" raged in Central Africa, a war in which large numbers of countries are directly and indirectly involved. The militarisation of an entire continent appears to destroy all hope of creating a better future, although many forms of nonviolent resistance to this militarisation have been developed.

Seattle and beyond

And 1999 will of course be remembered as the year in which a wide range of activists took on the symbols of global capitalism and militarism, at the disrupted World Trade Organisation talks held in Seattle, and in hundreds of autonomous actions across the globe. This mass action is part of a growing global resistance to rampant capitalist ideology and its consequences. 1999 also saw radical growth in mass action taken against genetically modified organisms, in defence of animals and for human rights, social justice and the cancellation of "Third World" debt. Does the dramatic scale and inclusiveness of these new actions herald a new era of mass activity by concerned citizens around the world?

The gathering aims to use these events to highlight common and continuing issues relating to the practice and theory of nonviolent action, through plenary and workshop sessions providing opportunities for discussion and information sharing with a large number of international activists.

From Kosov@ to Seattle: what role for nonviolent action?

29-30 July 2000, Oxford, Britain

An international activists' gathering to discuss
the role and future of nonviolent action in
Britain and globally.

Practical information on how to get to the seminar
venue will be sent out with our second mailing

Organised by War Resisters' International and a
coalition of British groups and individuals.

About War Resister's International

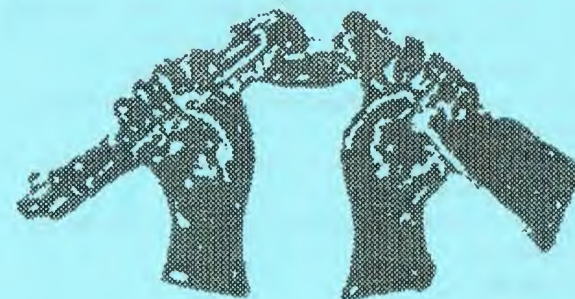
War Resisters' International is a secular pacifist organisation, founded in 1921, whose members are committed to and involved in the termination of all wars and the abolishing of all causes of war. The WRI has affiliated organisations in more than 30 countries.

War Resisters' International

5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DY, Britain (Tel +44 20 7278 4040; fax 7278 0444; email war-resisters@gn.apc.org; http: www.gn.apc.org/war-resisters/).

Graphics: Caroline Austin (Women in Black, London), Emily Johns (Women/tank paper cut), Sian Jones (Women blockade B52 bomber during NATO bombing of Kosov@/FRY).

From Kosov@ to Seattle: what role for nonviolent action?



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Organised by War Resisters' International



THE ZAPATISTAS: A ROUGH GUIDE

“Pack your bags! A red alert has been activated. The army are about to come into the village!”. I stood rooted to the spot. “Now!” came the reply to my inactivity. It was my first day in Diez de Abril.

Crying “Ya Basta!” (Enough is Enough), the Zapatistas emerged from the Lacandon jungle in 1994. Going beyond the fight for land and indigenous rights, they challenged the new global order itself. This book is one outcome of a trip to the Zapatista autonomous zones in Chiapas, Mexico by a small group of UK activists in 1998. It combines an accessible account of the Zapatista struggle for liberation with a practical guide on getting to Chiapas and taking action at home. Full of essential resources and contacts, this book is about creative resistance and a common journey for dignity and humanity. Any profits made by Chiapaslink from this book will go to fund projects in Zapatista indigenous communities in Chiapas and further solidarity work. For updates and more information see <http://www.chiapaslink.ukgateway.net>

**Now available at £5.00 (plus £1.50 p&p) from Earthright Publications,
8 Ivy Avenue, Ryton, Tyne & Wear NE40 3PU. [ISBN 0-907367-99-2]**

MEETING ABOUT 'MACDONALD'S ROAD PROGRAMME'

Labour might be on the brink of bringing back a major Roads Programme. In July it will publish its 10 Year Transport Plan. Lord Macdonald, appointed Transport Minister last year and charged with drawing up the 10 Year Transport Plan, is known to favour road building solutions.

Saturday 8th July

11am - mid-afternoon



Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, 138 Digbeth St (about 5 mins walk from New St Station). £5 if you can afford it and you want lunch - pay on the door.

The day will fall into three parts. We will start with a photo-opportunity for the media, followed by the meeting itself and then informal chat over a coffee or a drink.

The meeting is being organised by former members of ALARM UK. If possible, let us know beforehand if you'll be there. Tel/fax 0207 737 6641 e-mail: jdm.stewart@virgin.net

Earth First! Action Update

Issue 70 August 2000



The Monthly Round up of
Ecological, and Other, Direct
Action from Around Britain

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar principles to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.
Einstein

Nether Compton Rally

The anti- GM crop rally held in Nether Compton was a fantastic day - positive, peaceful, non-violent and extremely well supported by a broad cross-section of the community. 300 people heard speeches including, in the interest of impartiality, the Grim Reaper speaking on behalf of the bio-tech corporations.

Post picnic, music and speeches a strolled through the beautiful Dorset Countryside. On arrival at the site, 3 Grim Reapers led about 100 people onto the field, where they focused on decontamination. This lasted for 45 mins before police entered the site and arrested 7 people. One gave a temporary name "for the future", in solidarity with future generations who do not have a voice in the present. "Future" was charged with criminal damage and was able to submit a personal statement including 27 scientific papers and briefings as "evidence at the scene of their crime".

She was given numerous messages of support from police including "How much of the crop did you manage to do? I wish I had the guts to do it". The police eventually traced her and she was bailed (see rowantilly@gm.apc.org for her statement). The other six arrestees, were released on bail and are due to appear at Weymouth Magistrates Court at mid-day on 11 August.

An estimated 15% of the crop has been destroyed, which is a significant dent in the fifty acres of maize.

Many enthusiastic people, who had been empowered by their first experience of direct action wanted to know when the next "picnic" is... Everyone is invited to visit Over Compton again! Please bring your strimmers next time, scythes can only manage so much!

Who's involved in GMOs near you?



www.gm-info.org.uk

A new web site has been set up by Corporate Watch. It has regional maps showing each UK site involved in GMO's, from offices to stores to ports to fields. Find out what's happening near you!

*Consent for Aventis to go ahead with a farm scale trial of winter sown oil seed rape has been sneaked through without anyone having an opportunity to object. Its at TF 207 968 nr. Thorganby, Lincolnshire.

Another one bites the dust...

Nine GM farm scale trials damaged or destroyed within the last three weeks. At the time of writing five of the twelve Spring oilseed rape sites and four of the twelve maize sites have been partially destroyed. These are:

Daviot in Scotland 15% of Spring Oilseed Rape (SOSR) destroyed, in 2 separate covert actions (Scotland's only farmscale trial), Hutton Magna, Yorkshire, (SOSR) covert action, no information has been passed on about the extent of the damage, Chipping Campden Gloucester, (SOSR) covert action, 75% destroyed, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (SOSR) covert action, 50 + % destroyed, Kempsey, Gloucester, (SOSR) covert action, 50 + % destroyed, Over Compton, Dorset LL Chardon Maize, overt action at public rally, 7 arrests, one person detained, 15% destroyed (see report), Wivenhoe, Essex, LL Chardon Maize, overt action at night, 11 arrests, 25 + % destroyed, Headley Hall Farm, Yorkshire, LL Chardon Maize, covert action, 60+ % destroyed, IARC Rothamstead, Herts, LL Chardon Maize, covert action, 35+ % destroyed

More info from GEN (see contacts page)

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting in the road are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists.

News In Brief

- Campaigners against the Ilisu are promising a re-run of this year's Balfour Beatty's AGM which had to be abandoned after rebel shareholders invaded the stage. They are inviting people to buy shares in the company so they too can join in the fun at the next AGM. They need one thousand people by mid-August, so send your £2 (cheques etc to be made payable to The Ilisu Dam Campaign) with your name and address and they will do the rest. Ilisu Dam Campaign, Box 210, 266 Banbury Rd., Oxford, OX2 7DL
- Villagers from Chuquita, Bolivia were teargassed as they protested against oil leaking from a pipeline owned by Transredes (Enron-Shell subsidiary). The oil leakage is destroying their land and has polluted 200km of river. Villagers had water with them to help withstand tear gas, and carried on demonstrating, targeting the offices of Enron-Shell with stones and molotov cocktails, demanding that the company clean up and give them drinking water.
- All the people charged after last year's Manchester Reclaim The Streets have walked free. Video footage showed cops punching people in the face and hitting out with batons. mancel@nematode.freeseer.co.uk
- Mad Pride 2000, a festival and celebration of survivor culture promoting positive images of mental health, took place in London. The crowd were entertained by P.A.I.N. and Hysteria Ward. Tel: 0958 907357 www.madpride.net
- The GenetiX Snowball 'Handbook for Action Supplement' is now available. It's 105 pages, fully illustrated and costs £3.50 (which includes postage and packing). Send cheques payable to genetiX snowball to Box 13, Peace & Environment Centre, 43 Gardener St., Brighton, Sussex. BN1 1UN. Britain.
- Greenham Common Peace March Sculpture project is to commemorate all the people who struggled so hard to make the world a safer place and to educate and inspire future generations to continue the struggle. www.wfoe.fsnet.co.uk
- Women's Wednesdays in Whitehall: Picket opposite Downing St, London 1-2pm, demands: wages and benefits for caring work; abolition of Third World debt; accessible water, housing and transport; non-polluting technology; asylum from rape and protection from all violence. All welcome. Tel: 020-7482 2496.

McDonald's Defeated

Residents of Hinchley Wood, Surrey, have defeated McDonald's plans to build a drive-thru by occupying the site for a mammoth 552 days! On 13th December 1998 local residents moved caravans onto the car park of their well-loved local pub which had been leased to McDonald's. The group staffed their campaign office caravan on the site 24 hours a day, and organised public meetings, marches, sponsored events as well as supporting other groups around the country. On June 15th, after 18 months of controversy and determined opposition, McDonald's threw in the towel and handed back the lease to the original pub owners. Hinchley Wood now joins the growing list of places in which local communities have successfully defended themselves against McDonald's. More info from the McLibel Support Campaign: 0207 713 1269.

Land, Housing and Eco-Centre Project

Join a Collective looking for land - preferably Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire. Each member contributes at least £1,000 to the land fund, with the aim of buying outright mixed woodland for sustainable woodland management, 'temporary' living space, veg growing, collective activities, tree planting etc. At present there are about 20 members. Some are also interested in buying property to create a housing co-op and small education and arts centre. This needs lots of money! If you know of any going spare, or want to join either project, please get in touch (e-mail preferred) trolleytheatre@bigfoot.com 0117 939 3903

End Sanctions on Iraq

Voices in the Wilderness and other groups are organising mass nonviolent civil disobedience in London on Monday August 7th, calling for an immediate lifting of economic sanctions on Iraq. Actions will also take place in Washington DC, and at Faslane, Scotland. On Sunday 6th, a vigil will be held in London (venue yet to be decided) followed by an evening of non-violence training, action planning and a legal briefing (accommodation will be provided) <http://www.ecn.org/freedom> 01865 243 232

Cars Stuck in a Jam?

Hundreds of Range Rovers, Jeep Cherokees, Land Rovers and other large vehicles in London have been labelled with adhesive stickers that are proving almost impossible to remove. The stickers say: "Global warming. Stop these outsize vehicles!"

Circus King - violent to people & animals

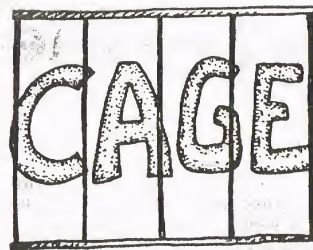
Campaigners have recently been targeting Circus King, a travelling circus owned by Jeffrey Mackie, which uses animals in its acts.

Circus King are not only notorious for Mackie's threats to kill "Fred" the bear, but also for their long record of serious violence against peaceful protesters, reporters & police. This July, an RSPCA inspector accompanied by 2 police officers attempted to gain access to the animals. The incident resulted in Mackie being nicked & charged with criminal damage & affray.

A violent assault by 6 masked King workers on 3 peaceful protesters at Wakefield, near Leeds, motivated campaigners to return to demo at that & every subsequent site as the circus traveled across Yorkshire.

Public attendance of the circus performances has been very low, giving a clear message to King that the vast majority of people do not enjoy watching animal abuse.

Circus King is currently in Scarborough (until 28th August) & demos are continuing. Contact: EF!AU for info on demos/if you have info on forthcoming Circus King locations.



Bastille Day

On 14th July 1789 the people of Paris stormed the French State prison, The Bastille. On Friday 14th 2000, at 9am, people began to gather at Golders Green to celebrate Bastille Day in style with a weekend of action against the expansion of the Prison Industry. At 10am the crowd of around 100 people walked to West Hamstead Station and onto a train to Richmond, followed by around forty policemen. From Richmond the crowd boarded the Reading Train and police became anxious again - on that line are Wormwood Scubs and Feltham Young Offenders Institute. The crowd began to sing "Ballad of Reading Gaol."

Had the Met read the flyers, they'd have known that the Bastille Day celebration was to be a land occupation. Had they been in touch with Surrey Police they would have known that at 10:30am 50 people occupied a pretty piece of land in Ashford, Surrey, the planned site of yet another Women's Prison.

By the time the Police had worked out what was going on, tripods, tents and marquees were up and people had settled in for a weekend of action, discussion and sharing information about prison expansion and how to stop it.

The response from local people was positive. They don't want the Prison. As soon as the Bastille Day crowd arrived, people were bringing food and trying to persuade them to stay for good. Even train drivers passing the site honked their approval.

Leaflets were taken door to door inviting people to come to the site. People were shown plans of the proposed prison and info about CAGE, direct action, prison privatisation, and immigration detention. The occupation ended on Monday, but the whole action was so successful people were already discussing follow-ups. Ideas included targeting any company that dares to bid for the contract and even setting up a permanent site in Ashford to stop construction altogether.

Harmondsworth

On Saturday over sixty people left the Bastille Day site and went to join the Close Harmondsworth Campaign in a picket outside Harmondsworth Detention Centre, one of the Immigration Service Prisons. Around 100 people took part. People climbed onto the fence surrounding the centre and spoke to the refugees. They ignored police pleas to come down and stop damaging the fence. The protest ended at 2:00pm so that friends and family would be allowed in to visit, but protestors promised to return the next day and visit the people they had met.

On Sunday, 12 people, armed with phonecards, propaganda and cherries, entered Harmondsworth to meet their new acquaintances. Security totally overreacted, confiscating literature and cherries, but they had to let the visitors meet the inmates. Visitors met refugees from Algeria, Kosova, Albania, Pakistan, India and other places, who welcomed them warmly.

Salim Rambo, a refugee from Zaire who fears for his life if he is returned there, was due to be deported to Germany on Tuesday. The German authorities had already refused his asylum application, so from there he would be sent straight to Zaire.

All day Monday was spent trying to get the deportation delayed. Phonecalls to solicitors, MP's and the Immigration Service itself established that there was a legal case to delay the flight. Immigration officials, however, were not interested, and the flight was due to leave at 7:15am the next day.

Direct action

Official channels had failed so protestors turned to direct action. Passengers boarding the British Airways flight from Heathrow, taking Salim to Germany, were given leaflets by CAGE informing them of Salim's presence, and encouraging them not to take their seats until he was allowed off. At 8am a passenger was arrested for standing up and refusing to let the flight depart. The flight was delayed for over 2 hours. Eventually, the pilot insisted Salim was taken off the plane and his forced deportation was prevented. He is now back in detention in London. Salim's new solicitor believes his deportation was illegal as he had no proper legal representation. By trying to deport him in this way, the Home Secretary may have breached international law.

CAGE activists prevented another deportation some days later at Gatwick.

BA and its shareholders profited from 15,000 deportations in three months (January - April 2000). BA don't care about lives they endanger, but they do care about their image and don't like protests. Missing a take-off slot also means a £10,000 fine. Actions in Belgium forced commercial airlines to stop deporting asylum seekers. Work is also being done persuading the Pilot's Union to back pilots refusing to fly forced deportations. Messages of support from other Trades Unions are very much appreciated.

CAGE is a relatively new network that supports and creates resistance to the growing prison industry. It was formed by people in the Earth First! and Reclaim The Streets movements in September 1999. They organise without leaders to take effective direct action against prison building. After nearly a year of action a newsletter is being put together to let people know what's going on!

Prison Labour

Increasingly companies are using a captive labour force, paying as little as £2.50 per week. CAGE are trying to put together a list of companies exploiting prison labour, but the identity of companies is protected by "commercial confidentiality". Information about this would be much appreciated. So far we know of The Ecologist, Tysons (a Nottingham based electrical firm), Polymer Reprocessors Ltd, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Harrods, Jewsons, Red or Dead, Land Rover and Poplar Plastics.

Construction

Since 1993 the UK prison population has shot up from 45,000 to a record 65,000. It is private money that is allowing this rate of prison expansion and private companies are profiting by locking people up. CAGE aims to target the companies involved and stick a spanner in the works of the prison building programme. We have information on the main bidders and maps of corporate HQs and other sites - contact us for more information and leaflets.

CONTACT CAGE. (Details in contacts page.)

refugees are welcome here, racists are not.

whose side we're on

The Earth First! network is loosely aligned with all libertarian movements against oppression and exploitation. But we haven't always made clear our opposition to racism and fascism. In the last couple of years, racists, politicians and the right-wing media have been trying to create a climate of racial hatred in the UK. The focus at the moment is asylum seekers; once it was Jews.

There are many brave and committed people working against racism and fascism in the UK and internationally. Occasionally they are linked to organisations that we wouldn't normally work with, but we nonetheless encourage all EFers to engage in collective anti-racist activity at a local level. This could mean keeping the Nazis off the streets with AFA, holding rallies or vigils for the victims of racist violence, or offering practical support for refugees.

Despite the attempts of the muck-stirners, the vast majority of people despise racism, but without active and determined struggle, the racists will gain greater credibility and more people will suffer.

At a very positive workshop at the Earth First! Summer Gathering, many agreed to make anti-racism and refugee support a higher priority in response to the current climate. A discussion paper has been written by one of the participants, highlighting the latent racism within the EF! network itself. This is available from us for free: a recommended read. Also beware of those few sad individuals trying to infiltrate environmental protest and form an ecofascist tendency. We know who you are.

no borders

A noborder group emerged from the MayDay 2000 Conference in London. They are promoting critical evaluation of the border regime in the UK through information and interventions. The border regime includes intimidation and humiliation of refugees through vouchers, dispersal, detention centres, as well as control of internal and external borders. Contact: enoborder@aol.com

Public meeting (with Reclaim the Streets) in London, August 7th at the Cock Tavern, Phoenix Road, 7.30pm. To discuss de-centralised actions in London to coincide with the IMF/World Bank's September meeting in Prague.

The European noborder network consists of European activists, anti-racists, anti-deportation-campaigns and artists. It emerged from the counter-actions to the 1998 EU summit in Tampere/Finland, where a future Common European Asylum System was discussed.

It helped organise an anti-racist border camp at Zittau, in the border-triangle between Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany in summer 98. This was visited by around 1400 people. The idea was to create a temporary zone of resistance in a contested area. Combining the tools of radical education with aesthetic and symbolic means, the physical presence of the camp constituted a social intervention in public space.

At the local market place, a monument for the illegal human trafficker was unveiled. The local barracks of the border police were occupied. Some of the hoaxes and actions led to thoughtful

discussions, others to scorn and aggression. Activists were invited to visit the detention camp nearby by inhabitants. Together, they publicised the disastrous conditions with an exhibition at the market place, demanding an extension of the monthly loo-paper rations. The camp made clear that the forgotten areas at the margins of nation-states are really at the centre of social struggle.

Dover Border Camp

The European noborder network is organising four camps for this summer:

- 23.- 30.7.00 Sicily/Italy,
- 13.- 19.8.00 Ustrzyki Gorne - Polish/Ukrainian/Slovakian triangle
- 29.7.- 6.8. Cottbus, Germany, Polish border
- And on the American/Mexican border

There are also plans for a border camp in Dover, possibly next Spring.

Why Dover? The white cliffs of Dover have been a symbol of the tolerant shores of Britain for generations of continental refugees. The channel can be both a border separating Britain from the Continent or a bridge towards Europe. At the moment, for many people, it seems to be more an obstacle. Dover is a highly polarised community - running a rally there would only reinforce already hardened positions. A border camp might be a way to slightly open them up. Anybody who is willing to make a public intervention in a difficult setting work is needed to make this camp happen. Info: www.contrast.org/borders/camp; www.noborder.eu.org

contacts

Anti Fascist Action (AFA), BM 1734, London, WC1N 3XX, 07000 569569,

<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/senate/5602>

CAGE (see contacts Page)

CARF (see above)

Dover Residents against

Racism, c/o Refugee Link, PO Box 417, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4GT
European noborders Network (see above)

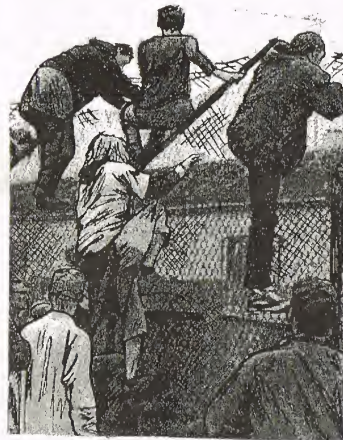
The Europe Roma Association, PO Box 14874, London NW1 0WF
National Coalition of Anti-

Deportation Campaigns, 110

Hamstead Road, Birmingham B20 2QS Phone: 0121-554-6947

www.ncadc.demon.co.uk/

Close Down Campsfield Campaign
www.users.ox.ac.uk/~asylum



Roma Emergency

On the 6th July, thousands of Roma people currently in the U.K were judged to have no right to claim asylum here, even though it was accepted that they are persecuted by racist gangs in their Eastern European homelands.

In making the judgement, Lord Hope of Craighead said that there was an obligation to grant refugee status only if the applicant's own state was unable or unwilling to protect its people. To acknowledge that this was the case in Slovakia would leave the British Government open to (more) criticism, over the cases of Stephen Lawrence, Ricky Reel, etc...

Responding to the judgement, Roma people have said that the police are bastards who do not care, and if deported they "may as well put us in the gas chambers like they did in the war." Many Roma people in Britain will be forcibly removed in the near future.

The 5 Lords who made the ruling are: Anthony John Leslie Lloyd-68 Strand on the Green, Chiswick, W4 3PF, Tel: 020 89947790, or Ludlay, Berwick, East Sussex, BN26 6TE, Tel: 01323 870204, James Arthur David Hope- 34 India St, Edinburgh, EH3 6HB, Tel: 0131 225 8245 (he's the Chancellor of Strathclyde University), Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, James John Clyde, and James Stewart Hobhouse. Write to them and let them know what you think!

caravan tour

A Caravan Tour for asylum rights is planned for September. It aims to travel through the UK for a month to express support for the rights of asylum-seekers and migrants and the victims of racist attacks, provide practical support and solidarity for asylum-seekers and black communities, unite the struggles for asylum and migration rights and justice.

This idea was sparked by the success of a similar project in Germany, which travelled through over 40 cities to highlight and protest against the conditions of migrants and asylum-seekers.

The plan so far is to travel through various cities for 5 weeks, starting from mid-September, and link up with events that have already been planned, like the Barbed Wire Conference in Oxford (15-17 September) and the demonstration for asylum rights in Newcastle on September 30. The Caravan will also meet with local groups and hold demonstrations outside detention centres, or visit people in hostels (for example in Dover).

CARF has offered to function as the organising committee, but everything depends on the input of organisations and individuals. Everyone with ideas and/or contacts can get in touch with Campaign Against Racism & Fascism, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX, tel: 020 7837 1450 Web: <http://www.carf.demon.co.uk> or come along to meetings every Wednesday, 7.30pm, @ the Institute of Race Relations, 2-6 Leake Street (off King's Cross Road, London).

refugees

are

welcome

here;

racists

are

not.

Action Groups

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Bristol EPI
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Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
0117 939 3093

Cambridge EPI
Box E, 12 Mill Road
Cambridge CB1 2AD

Cheltenham EPI
16 Portland Street
Cheltenham
Glouce. GL52 2PB

Exeter Environment Network
PO Box 185
Exeter EX4 4EW

File EPI
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St Andrews
File KY16 9Q
01336 477411

Guilford EPI
PO Box 217
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fax 01483 203212

Gwynedd & Mori EPI
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EPI CONTACTS AUGUST 2000

Action Groups are local EPI contacts. Some of them are active groups, some of them are aspiring towards this but need more people to get in touch. The Propaganda section lists non-EPI publications which are worth reading. International Contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. Other Contacts are ones whose principles we agree with fully in part. For groups we address visits http://www.snet.co.uk/efi/ New additions and alterations are shown in bold.

Reclaim the Valleys
c/o Swansea
Environment Centre
Pier Street
Swansea SA1 1RY

Reading Roadbusters
R 15, Centre
35-39 London Street
Reading RG1 4PS
0118 954 0430
roadbusters@ciara.net

Sheffield EPI
c/o Brambles Resources
Centre, 82 Andover St.
Sheffield, S3 9EH
0114 2797 164

South Devon EPI
See Taines Genetics
Group
Swansea People EPI
c/o Green Action
Swansea Uni SU
Swansea, Wales

South Wales Activism
Network (SWAN)
PO Box 70, Newport,
NP1 0YD swangroup@yahooc.co.uk

TAPP (Tyneside Action
for People & Planet)
PO Box 17A
Newcastle NE99 1TA

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c/o Green Society
Warwick Uni SU
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suaid@cs.warwick.ac.uk

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Wolves Uni SU
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Solidarity
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Counter Information
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0131 557 8242

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Finis - a full list of
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URGENT (green

GM Feed Factory Closed Down

On 20th June, 17 people entered, occupied and closed the BOCM Pauls animal feed processing plant in Alton, Hampshire. BOCM Pauls is a large manufacturer of animal feed in the UK, and since 50% of all genetically modified (GM) crops are used in animal feed, this means that BOCM Pauls probably use more GM products than any other UK company.

In a well-planned action people arrived at the front gate at around 1.00pm. Different groups made their way to the offices and the processing plants, whilst another closed the gates and hung a cool banner reading "Resistance is Fertile!" across them.

The be-suited office employees were talked to, but most expressed confusion and/or an antagonistic attitude. In the manufacturing plant it was different, with some of the occupiers having a cup of tea and

col chats with the people there. Maybe next time even be a game of football! An hour or so four police turned up, baffled, they didn't really except stop a macho truck starting a fight with people the gate. After another hour a and video wielding cop

arrived and after more faffing gave a deadline "leave or be arrested". There was an impromptu get together and he was given the occupiers decision - that they would stay until 4.30pm and leave then, not before. And that's what happened. A successful day, no injuries or arrests, a shut down of a GM related industry for an afternoon, some minor office mischief, a good laugh and another chance to see some mates. Watch out for more!

Trolley Theatre

Trolley Theatre want to network with anyone who is interested in mixing performance with direct action and eco-education. They have been successfully running for a few years, but would like to meet more people. They plan to hold weekend gatherings in autumn to discuss ideas, collaborations and effectiveness for the future. If you have skills or experiences you'd like to share, contact

trolleytheatre@bigfoot.com
0117 939 3903



Glen of the Downs Evicted

Police and private security moved in this month and removed protesters in tree houses and tunnels at Glen of the Downs protest camp, County Wicklow, Ireland. The eviction took 2 days as the developers, Ascon, destroyed everything in their way with no thought for the safety of the campers. Heavy machinery was driven over tunnels so those inside were forced out, fearing for their lives. All the camp equipment was destroyed or confiscated, and the camp cockerel was deliberately killed.

Many people have now moved on to an anti-pylon protest at Cove, County Cork.

contact glenofthedowns@ireland.com

Contact us at: EF! AU, P O Box 1TA,
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA
0791 4791841 <actionupdate@gn.apc.org>
www.eco-action.org/efau
Subscribe to email edition for free.
(When sending us articles, please enter
"article" in the subject line.)

Genetic pirates: Out of Chiapas!

As the news broke in Europe of the Mexican election results, actions took place on July 5th in the U.K. against a British company, Molecular Nature Ltd. in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of Chiapas, Mexico who are opposing the Maya International Co-operative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG) project - of which Molecular Nature is the commercial partner. Molecular Nature Ltd's work will result in patents on compounds extracted from the plants of Chiapas being owned by foreign companies, without the consent of indigenous people.

The aim of this action was to highlight the struggle of the Mayan indigenous communities against foreign biopiracy and Mexican military aggression, in what is one of the most biologically rich regions of the world.

Activists dressed as pirates visited the company's headquarters in Maidenhead, Berkshire and their research laboratories in Wales. They delivered letters to key staff members and shareholders as well as visiting the gardens of Company directors to symbolically collect samples of plants there. At the office headquarters, a director complained that we had not made an appointment and that he wanted us to go away - activists replied that many communities in Chiapas felt the same way about the Maya ICBG project intruding in their region. Letters were also presented to the Mexican Ambassador to the UK, and the Mexican Consulate.

Biodiversity is not for sale or profit! For more info see <http://www.rafi.org>
<http://www.geneticsaction.org.uk/chiapas.htm>

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From: EF! AU,
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If the circle is ticked then your subscription has run out - Please renew it NOW!

Earth First! Revolutionary or Racist?

Racism is finally on the agenda of Earth First! We've had workshops at the summer gathering, and now two pages on racism and fascism in the Action Update. But rather than talk about racism 'out there', in wider society, I want to ask the question "Why is Earth First! so white?".

It's a question I've been thinking about since I first got involved with radical green politics, and there aren't any easy answers. As black people in Britain, our political energies are often focused around racism and social justice issues. One friend told me, "When you have to go through daily fights, you don't have energy for other issues you care about - there's not enough anger left for them". But the nature of the green movement in general, and EF! In particular, doesn't encourage black people to get involved.

Monocultures

Earth First! feels monocultural. This is not just because of the physical make-up of the network, but also its ethos. There is a lack of appreciation of other cultures and other ways of thinking, as there is throughout this society. Western culture equates whiteness and the West with scientific progress, technological development, and rational thought. In radical green circles, this is reflected in the assumption that, while people are mobilising in, say, India, the Niger Delta or Chiapas, it's the radical thinking and progressive ideas of the activist West which are leading the way. At one gathering, when the suggestion was made that we should read works by radical black writers, one Manchester EF! Activist asked "Are there any?" To me, the question reflects a blindness to the experiences, contributions and history of the non-white world. In addition, non-Western societies are often seen very simplistically and dualistically - either idolised as being 'traditional', or dismissed as having been infected by Western 'development'. I am sure that I am not the only black person to find this profoundly irritating and alienating. It ignores different cultures, traditions, and histories - it ignores our reality. And that blindness is also apparent when the significance of racism to our lives is ignored. One racist comment, from a white activist involved in organising an RTS in Brixton, was that "black people are only interested in selling drugs, making money, and family". Black people across Britain are involved in political work - building communities, monitoring racial harassment, supporting those who are socially excluded. There sometimes seems to be the attitude in green circles that the only issues worth bothering about are the ones in which we are interested. And that the only acceptable values are our values. We're often uncomfortable with dealing with different opinions and behaviours. Unless we take on board the fact that there are other issues - racism, sexism, domestic violence, discrimination against the 'disabled' - which have an immediate impact on huge numbers of people, and unless we show more understanding of where people are at, of their different realities, and the fact that we might not always be right, we will become increasingly irrelevant to other people.

Dealing with people

We in Earth First! are not particularly welcoming or open to outsiders. There is a culture of activism, including a jargon, which excludes those who have not been as active in certain areas. And we don't come across as being interested in people. Members of the group Friends of MOVE who came to an EF! Gathering ended up feeling too isolated, and did not come back. And a working class woman also mentioned feeling isolated, and "culturally shocked" when she came to a gathering. As a black person, what this means is that I am coming into an environment which is almost completely white, everyone seems to know everyone else, there is very little awareness of racism, or other forms of exclusion - sexism, classism etc. - and few

people seem interested in getting to know about me and my experiences, my very different reality. At one workshop during the last gathering, in Wales, a deaf activist's requests for people to help him by speaking more slowly and clearly, and by writing things down, was ignored! Difficulty in dealing with newcomers or those who are different may well be because many of us feel shy and insecure, as a London RTS activist has suggested. But it makes the network very closed, and makes it difficult for people to get involved and stay involved. For those of us who experience exclusion in society generally, it can make that involvement nearly impossible.

Why should we be inclusive?

During the Wales gathering, issues of inclusivity were discussed at several different workshops. But a number of people said "Why should we try so hard to involve other groups if they don't want to be involved?" To some extent, I understand that feeling - efforts made in the past have often seemed to fail, and making links with outside groups can involve a lot of work. And some of the reasons why few black people get involved are out of our control. But, as a black person who is already involved with Earth First!, and who still feels excluded to some extent, that comment gives me the message that 'We're fine as we are, and it's too much effort to adjust to help you feel included'. In other words, that my presence and my contributions are not valued enough to justify the effort needed to change. The issue is not one of getting out there, dragging people along when they don't want to be involved, but trying to make a movement which is open and welcoming, which has a multicultural feel, which feels comfortable for those already involved. If we manage it, we will be a more vibrant, inspiring, and relevant movement, and other people will want to get involved with us.

What can we do?

I cannot give The Answer to that, although that is what people often seem to expect from me when I raise these issues. Perhaps it would be better to see them, not as problems - the 'problem' of racism, sexism, classism, and so on - but as positive opportunities, to develop, and grow, and become multicultural and inclusive. A witch-hunt mentality does not help, and does nothing to increase inclusivity or make anyone feel comfortable in the movement. On the other hand, claiming as I have heard one person say, that excluding fascists is a form of apartheid is ignoring the reality that black people are hardly going to feel comfortable in an environment where unreformed fascists are allowed free access and expression. It is a choice, and if you choose to accept people who are openly fascist - including eco-fascist - and racist, and who don't want to change that, you automatically exclude me.

Things which would help include - making links with groups working on racism issues, not just in order to get them to come to our events, but to make the connections and to show that we respect them and acknowledge their work; more welcoming gatherings - organised events in the evenings, such as story-telling round a fire, so that newcomers are not excluded from the social side of things; spaces for us to tell our stories and get to know each other as people and not just as activists. Perhaps most importantly, we need to organise spaces where we can safely explore the issues. There will hopefully be a workshop at the next gathering where we can explore the subtle, cultural racism in ourselves, through games and activities. Similar workshops looking at sexism and classism are equally important. There may well be difficult moments, with anger and hurt being expressed, but if we can't face that challenge, we do not have the right to call ourselves radical, let alone revolutionary.

Feedback on this article would be really welcome. Contact Kala on (0116) 210 9652, or kalasubbu@yahoo.co.uk

Earth First!

Action Update

February 2001

Issue 73

A monthly
round-up of
ecological
and other
direct action
from around
Britain

"May the force be with you!" Obi-wan kenobi

Mind the Gaps!

Following a campaign of actions in the US against high street clothing store GAP, Jan 20th saw actions against the chain across the UK. These highlighted concerns about low pay, exploitation and abysmal working conditions rife in the rag trade around the world.

Sheffield

In Sheffield people are taking action against a new Gap store due to open on March 2nd. The 'No Sweat' campaign has been highlighting Gap's appalling treatment and low pay of its workers in the Third World by leafleting outside the new store.

On Thursday Jan 25th 'SHAG' (Sheffield Against Gap) spent the day in freezing conditions outside the Sheffield Novotel where Gap was having its recruitment day for the new store. A stall was set up outside with a banner marked "Gap-Information point". Almost all of the prospective employees went straight to the stall and were told the truth about Gap. Whilst some people really didn't care, most listened intently and quite a few were so shocked they decided not to bother.

Contact sheffieldmayday@disinfo.net
www.shcffieldmayday.ukf.net

Birmingham

When picketers arrived at their local Gap store, they found police already waiting

with extra Gap security and a Gap UK rep. 1000 leaflets were distributed while a sound system entertained shoppers. Local kids joined in and a riot van turned up to see the fun.

A phone call was received before the action from a US rep enquiring about the press release and what the leaflets would say. News travels fast!

Contact Birmingham S26 Collective
07980 41557, s26brum@hotmail.com

Bristol

150 people in Bristol blockaded GAP in Broadmead protesting at child and sweatshop labour revealed in a recent BBC Panorama programme. Placards read 'GAP-Globally Abusing People' and 'GAP rips off child labour and sweat shop labour'. The protest grew as local shop workers on lunch breaks and teenagers joined in and passers-by queued to sign petitions. One woman, feeling guilty after having bought a GAP bodywarmer for £55 was reminded that she hadn't benefited from the exploitation but had been ripped off as the mark-up on some GAP clothes is 400%.

For more information about Gap
www.gapsucks.org

Workers issues and the textile trade more generally: Labour behind the Label
38 Exchange St, Norwich, NR2 1AX

The philosophy behind Earth First! is the use of non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

It is not a cohesive group or campaign, rather a meeting point for those interested in these ideas.

Monsanto plant occupied in Brazil

On Jan 26th, 1200 workers from the radical Landless Workers Movement (MST), plus foreign activists, stormed a Monsanto biotech plant and threatened to camp out indefinitely in protest against genetically modified food. The unit is in Rio Grande do Sul, Southern Brazil, an area at the centre of the country's battle over transgenics.

The unit was invaded just before midnight on Jan 25th. The protest was timed to coincide with the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland and a Brazilian WEF counter conference.

Hundreds of families took over the research centre and warehouses. Graffiti on the walls included "The seed of death!" and "Monsanto is the end of farmers!"

"We're staying here indefinitely," said Solet Campoletto, a local MST leader. "We want to make a statement ... these seeds trick farmers and create dependency on seeds produced by a big multinational."

More Davos stories inside

The EF! AU is produced to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions and articles (max 150 words) so if you've set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we'd like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

News in brief...

- ★ Happy New Year to all those involved in worker's struggles. Postal workers in Bristol and London civil service workers striked over pay and employment rights in January. Luton Vauxhall plant saw a massive demo against closure on Jan 20th; Hackney council workers will strike for 3 days against privatisation and march on Parliament on Jan 30th. Source: Indymedia.
- ★ Corporate Watch's briefing on Dalgety Agriculture is now out of date. The Dalgety group has sold off it's animal feed business mainly to Advanced British Nutrition (ABN), which trades as J Bibby Agriculture, a subsidiary of Associated British Foods Plc. Contact Corporate Watch 01865 791391 mail@corporatewatch.org.
- ★ The Polish Prime Minister Buzek was pined on Jan 19th in Wroclaw in protest against health care reforms.
- ★ Tony Blair was tomatoed on Jan 9th at the opening of the City of Bristol College. Fruit and veg were hurled in protest against sanctions on Iraq.
- ★ Urgent appeals for Witnesses for Mayday and N30. An attempt is being made to build a case against the legality of policing at the London Mayday 2000 protest. Tim Green of Bernberg & Co. Tel: 0207 911 0166 is keen to talk to anybody who was held in Trafalgar Square under Section 60 arrested or preferably not. Your help may make the difference in a possible prison sentence. Cock Tavern, Euston, anybody who witnessed the events leading up to the arrests of 7 anti-fascists contact Tony Martin of Moss & Co. Tel: 0208 986 8336.
- ★ On Jan 31st animal lib activist Charlotte Lewis was jailed for six months after pleading guilty to sending hate mail to staff of Huntingdon Life Sciences. Charlotte was caught after the police did DNA tests on the saliva on the back of the stamps. See 'prisoners' for her address.
- ★ Over 150 posters about Nestle and baby milk have appeared in Bristol. The city's new cinema complex at the harbour-side development is sponsored by Nestle.
- ★ An HSBC window in Leeds got bricked in December.
- ★ Visit www.freenorwich.co.uk for radical news, views and jam recipes from the fine folk of Norfolk.

End the sanctions End the silence

Demonstrators gathered near Parliament Square on Jan 16th in protest of the 10 year sanctions. 'Voices in the Wilderness' and other groups gave speeches about the devastating effect on the Iraqi people.

The demonstration then moved to Parliament Square where a small group of protesters sat down and blockaded the road. Whilst the majority were pushed into a cordoned-off area near the statue of Churchill, the sit-down protesters managed to block the road for another hour, until police violently dragged them away, some using pressure points.

15 protesters were arrested and charged with Highway Obstruction.

Contact 0117 914 1873.

Climate chaos meandering meetings

People interested in taking action on 'climate chaos' spent a day in January getting inspired and thinking about where a campaign would go next. A range of ideas came up; possibilities for the next UN climate change conference in July, targeting oil and cement industries over fossil fuel promotion and emissions, campaigning against air travel, challenging carbon trading, thinking about power stations and planning for a climate change road-show to take place in late spring/early summer.

Contact info@risingtide.org.uk For info on the road-show, to come along, or to suggest places for it to go contact 0161 273 8516 or climatechaos@yahoo.com

Mark Barnsley update

At 5.30am on Feb 1st framed anarchist prisoner Mark Barnsley was moved yet again (20th time in 6 years) a practice known as ghosting and intended to lower prisoners' morale. This time he's been put in HMP Wakefield, notorious for it's strict regime. He's in segregation after refusing to be housed on the sex offenders' wing (he was fitted up for GBH). See prisoners for his address.

Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign
PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX
barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com

Following an occupation of Sheffield CPS on Dec 19th in support of Mark (see AU72) 16 people appeared at Hull magistrates charged with 'conspiracy to burgle with intent' on Jan 9th. Bail conditions included not being allowed to approach any CPS staff or building, or

Sheffield magistrates and crown courts. "Some clients" said their solicitor "would die for these conditions!" Next Hearing March 13th 2pm, Hull magistrates.

Solidarity with the Chattanooga 3

On the 10th of January 2001, to coincide with the trial of the Chattanooga 3 in the United States, a solidarity action was held in Edinburgh (Scotland) to ask that all charges be dropped and to highlight the tragic consequences of police brutality in this country and abroad.

In 1999 3 African-Americans, Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, Damon McGee and Mikail Musa Muhammad, were arrested in the small Tennessee town of Chattanooga for daring to speak out against the deadly brutality of the Chattanooga police who have killed 40 people since 1980. Bizarrely, each of them face up to a year in prison for participating in a peaceful action. In contrast, not one of the 40 police killings has resulted in a prosecution.

More info ACE, 17 W Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA, Scotland.
Tel 0131 557 6242

HLS backers revealed

Huntingdon Life Sciences new financial saviour, Stephens Group Inc. <http://www.stephens.com/>, is one of America's premier merchant and investment banks, based in Little Rock, Arkansas. They've been linked to US governments from the current administration right back to Carter in the 70's and also have links to Indonesia and other regimes. They have reportedly been involved in CIA cocaine smuggling and assassinations.

More Info: SHAC, PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Gloucs, GL50 1YN 0121 632 6460.

Also Cambridge in April action, April 21st www.go.to/cambridgeinapril

Brum charges dropped

On December 13th after a 4-day trial 6 anti-capitalist protesters were cleared of public order and obstruction charges. Arrests were made at the June 3rd anti-capitalist event in the heart of Birmingham's consumer area. The charges (costing the CPS £8000+) were an attempt to intimidate activists, justify a £30,000 police operation and to deter similar demos in the future.

Contact Birmingham S26 Collective
07980 415577 s26brum@hotmail.com

New resources out now

Do or Die 9

Following 18 months in the making the new 232 page Do or Die is available now. With a new colour cover and packed with in-depth reports, articles and analysis on topics ranging from Prague to Seattle, genetics to protest camps, the Black Panthers to football. £5 cheques payable to Do or Die c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, BN2 2GY

P.S. If anyone owes them for copies of #8 it would be really helpful if you could send your money now.

GenetiX Update

After a break of six months the newsletter of the Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) is up and running again. Covering news from a wide variety of anti-GE groups and campaigns, contacts listings and campaigning information it's now available from Totness Genetics Group. ToGG, PO Box 77
Totness Devon, TQ9 5ZJ
info@togg.org 01803 840 098

West Papua Update

On Jan 26th 2001 the Chief

Upcoming events - extra information

Liverpool 5th-11th March

Plans are afoot for a week of GE action against Cargill (the only GE animal feed importers in the UK) and others. A convergence centre, squat accommodation, info and plenty of ideas for autonomous fun are underway. Contact 0161 2266 814

Cambridge in April

Following Cambridge in August another mobilisation is planned for the 21st April. The campaign is keen to highlight the opportunities for autonomous action on the day and the linking together of the various issues affected by R&D based in Cambridge. www.go.to/cambridgeinapril

Summer Gathering 2001

Dates soon to be announced (end July/ beginning Aug provisionally). There's plenty to do so get involved. summergathering@yahoo.co.uk

Construction Safety Summit

The London Hazard Centre is calling on workers, eco-activists and safety campaigners to join the action against

Commander of the Liberation Army of Free Papua Movement (TPN/OPM) was arrested by the Papua New Guinea Police in Vanimo, Sandaun Province, PNG. The OPM have been resisting the destruction of their homeland, race and cultures caused by both the occupation of Indonesia and the encroachment of Western capitalist interests since 1969.

Anyone wishing to take action in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of West Papua should get hold of this update. It also contains other useful news and contacts, free of the value judgements often imposed by NGOs.

OPM Support Group (Brighton) c/o 43 Gardener St. Brighton, BN1 1UN
opmsgsbrighton@yahoo.co.uk

These publications are totally voluntary operations. Send SAEs when requesting info and a donation if you can.

Human genetics

The AU are keen to hear about any campaigns or sources of information about human genetics for a forthcoming article. Please contact us at the address on the back cover.

Call to climate action

To link with the 'International day of action against racism' on March 21st the group Rising Tide are calling upon "concerned people and grass roots groups to launch a season of carbon action and organise their own autonomous actions." The aim is to highlight the links between social injustice, climate change and other ecological problems. Overwhelmingly those first to be affected by climate change and other environmental problems are people of colour, both within industrialised countries themselves as well as outside them.

The 'solution' (proposed by leaders in forums like Den Haag) is carbon trading meaning that less industrialised countries can sell their unused quota of carbon emissions to companies and countries who have exhausted their supply. In effect commodifying the atmosphere. So the industrialised countries create the problem, watch others suffer its effects, buy their way out of it cheaply, then sit back and watch the profits roll in from the cleaner technologies they sell to the poor. Another example of neo-colonial relations between 'the west' and the rest of the world.

Rising Tide are asking anti-racist and environmental groups to make links locally and work together to take action. See www.risingtide.nl for more details and useful links
Contact risingtide@post.com/
info@risingtide.nl

More Davos...

During the meetings of the World Economic Forum police turned Davos, Switzerland into a fortress intimidating and arresting demonstrators. Despite this several protesters got in dressed as skiers. In Zurich they were blasted by water cannon and tear gas in the freezing temperatures and people attending NGO seminars were arrested. By Jan 29th, 121 non-swiss nationals were still detained.

Demonstrators gathered at Swiss embassies across Europe protesting at the police brutality and demanding the release of arrestees. On Jan 27th, 7000 people gathered in Madrid in solidarity with Davos protesters and with immigrants and refugees around the world as new fascist immigration laws are made in Spain. See <http://nodo50.org/mrg/mani.htm>
<http://nodo50.org/racismo/home.htm>
<http://davos.indymedia.org/>
www.sindominio.net/ninguna/

New Roads Planned in England

Plans for over £5 million of new road schemes have been released by the DETR (Department of Environment, Transport & Regions). These schemes are being proposed by Local Authorities although those that go ahead will receive central Government funding.

Each scheme has had a very brief study of likely impacts and a document showing these has come the way of some EF'ers. The table below is a brief summary of the schemes and their impacts, where details are available. Impact assessment considers effects to 'protected' wildlife or wildlife sites, 'heritage' (meaning Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings), plus calculated increases in local pollution to air and water. Some schemes will be familiar (see Weymouth and Salisbury bypasses). Some are merely expensive junction improvements, others are linked to urban regeneration plans and most include measures for pedestrians and cyclists (presumably to make them attractive to environmentalists).

Local authority	Scheme	Details	Project
Barnley	Cutworth bypass	Local bypass linked to local regeneration	Great Yarmouth A47/A149 Link
Birmingham	Northfield regeneration scheme	Single carriageway, part of regeneration plan	New York Crossing
Bristol	Sally Oak Access Road	No details	Salswood Road
Bucks	A4 Path Road-Caddington	£5 million scheme, affects wildlife	Link to regeneration project, stages 2 & 3
Camwall	A418 (Wing Dykes)	No details	Pooler Bridge Regeneration Initiative
Cheshire	A39 Cranford bypass	Access to new employment area, bridge over Canal, affects wildlife and historic sites	No details
Cheshire	A500/A534 Link	Greenfield site used for development	Local junction improvements
Cheshire	A54 Access/Dike Dykes	5km village bypass	A631 West Bawley Road
Cumbria	Orlsey Northern Development Route	8km link road, affects River Eden and Eden of Huddersfield	Affected local wildlife and heritage sites
Darlington	Eastern Transport Corridor	Possible affects on wildlife and water quality	Bypass on brownfield site
Derbyshire	Mirkham Endowment Zone	No details	On Fox Street, affects wildlife and heritage sites
Derbyshire	A6086 Ilkeston Aisworth Link	No details	Increases noise and pollution for some houses
Devon	Barnscape Western Bypass	Western bypass, disturbance to wildlife likely	3km route near River Don
Dorset	Weymouth Relief Road	7.5km road improvement, affects local landscape, bypass, the scheme is challenged by locals in the 1990's	Affected air quality and local wildlife
Durham	A688 Wharfedale Hill - Bowdon	Some impact on wildlife and landscape	3km bypass
Durham	A167 Chilton bypass	2km bypass	No details
East Sussex	East Loos Link Road	Access to proposed industrial site, impact on wildlife and landscape	No details
Essex	Navarren Port Access	Improvements to existing road	Mar after wildlife and heritage
Essex	Canvey Island Transport Project	No details	Central route
Gloucestershire	Eastern Spine Road	Significant impact on wildlife and heritage sites	Hendon bypass
Gloucestershire	East Kent Access 1 & 2	Impact on wildlife and ancient sites	No details
Leicestershire	M6 Hockham Link	Affects wildlife and landscape	No details
Leicestershire	East Leics Link Road	Local noise and landscape impact likely	Mar after wildlife and heritage
Leicestershire	Inner Ring Road, Stage 7	Increases noise for local houses	No details
Leicestershire	East Shilton bypass	Affects local wildlife and landscape	No details
Leicestershire	A607 Reardon bypass	Affects local wildlife, archaeology and water quality, cuts through floodplain	1.5km wildlife and landscape impacts
Leicestershire	A32 Grantham east-west improvement	No details	Affected wildlife, landscape and heritage
Leicestershire	A156/C541 Coledale Access	Some impact on wildlife and archaeology	Brownfield site regeneration
Liverpool City	A1073 Sefton-Eye Improvement	Part of local regeneration scheme	Single carriageway in open countryside
Luton	Hill Lane Aerial Improvement	Part of local regeneration scheme	Part of local regeneration scheme
Luton	A228 Main Road-Popes	No details	Changes to existing junction
Midway	Lane Phase 1	No details	Affects landscape, wildlife and local heritage
Middleborough	Ropers Lane, Isle of Grain	No details	West Thameck Regeneration Road
Middleborough	Phase 2	No details	Hensworth - All Link
Millon Keynes	East Middleborough Transport Corridor	Some impact on townscape	Glasgow Link
Norfolk	Betchley Link	New road through brownfield site	Changes to existing junction
Norfolk	Nar Ouse Regeneration		Affects landscape, wildlife and water quality

If you want a copy of the summary sheet for a scheme mentioned above, please send an SAE c/o Norfolk EF!, although much better details will be available, on request, from the planners in the relevant local authority (county or district or borough council). Details will be in the Local Transport Plan, or in regeneration proposals.

The writings on the wall

Hello, and welcome to the 1st AU published in Norfolk. Here like many other places, we have been 'consumers' of the Action Update for a number of years. We took it on when we realised the October edition might be the last and came to discuss just how important we felt it was. We produced a quite lengthy mailout in December which we circulated to local groups and via e-mail which covers our thoughts about and commitment to the update. If anyone would like a copy please get in touch. What appears here are some of the main points from that mail-out plus tips on distributing the AU and submitting articles to it. We feel the AU is an incredibly valuable resource. Our hope is it can reflect the diverse and exciting range of activity going on out there. For this to happen we need as many people as possible to contribute their news and ideas. All feedback gratefully received. We won't be considering another editorial until our final issue so many thanks,

3am, Feb 12th 2001

Why the EF! AU is important. The EF! Network in the UK is almost a decade old. In that time there have been some pretty major changes in the form and focus of ecological direct action but the network has survived and continues to play a role. While it would be arrogant and untrue to consider the EF! Network the be all and end all of ecological direct action in the UK, people and groups involved with EF!, by that name or otherwise have made a substantial contribution over recent years.

The reason for mentioning this is we feel the value of the EF! Network is often under appreciated (something we've been guilty of too). It may be far from perfect but there is much worth maintaining and building on. We feel the Action Update performs some important (and often unique) functions within the network. Broadly speaking these are:-

- ❖ The maintenance of a point of contact for the network
- ❖ The maintenance of the contacts list
- ❖ A point of information for those isolated from an active group, and inspiration for those not involved in radical ecological action.
- ❖ A way in for new groups to publicise themselves and make contact with others i.e. A way into the network
- ❖ The sharing of news and information, and publicising events; cheap, accessible information.
- ❖ A forum for the introduction of 'new' issues (At present anyone with a new idea can submit an article to the AU or raise it at a gathering - imagine trying to do this without those things)
- ❖ A record of what has gone before

A few changes. You may have already noticed a few changes dotted here and there in this AU. We don't plan any major alterations and we would appreciate feedback on those we have made and any more you think we should make. We plan to publish 10 issue a year (basically monthly but with 2 joint issues a year) and have altered the subscription rate to £5 for 10 issues. We would also like to try to broaden the focus of the AU to include more about the ongoing community initiatives that seem to be on the increase in the Network. By this we mean things like social centres and community gardens, self-education things etc. that fit our understanding of 'Direct Action' but are less obviously 'An Action'. We think this will be more reflective of what people on the Network are up to and give the Update a broader appeal.

E-mail. We have changed our e-mail address to efactionupdate@bigfoot.com. We realise this is potentially contentious. It was not a decision taken lightly and we took a lot of advice before we made the move. There were problems with the system we inherited (probably not the fault of either the last collective or the e-mail company) and felt now was a better time than any other to make a change. We have aimed to set up a system that is easy to use, easy to pass to the next collective and minimises the likelihood of our losing information. We can't promise we've got it right, but we have thought about it very carefully

A quick note on money. As far as we know the AU has never yet managed financially on subscriptions. It has relied on donations from groups and individuals and the fund-raising efforts of the Editorial collective. We are concerned the AU doesn't take too much away from local projects we are involved in so please support us if you can.

Distribution-get it out there!

Info stalls can be set up legitimately or otherwise - particularly useful if you have a new campaign or group in your area. Car boot sale stalls a group in Brighton tried this and said it worked well. Pub collections We are not sure what the legal position is with this, always approach the landlord and ask if it's OK to come in. We've found this to be an effective fund-raiser and a good way to get talking to people. Leave it around doctor's waiting rooms, trains, libraries, staff-rooms- anywhere people might pick it up and have a look. Ask local shops, community centres, pubs etc. if they will take a few. It's quite easy to establish a route for dropping them off. Some places may even let you leave a collecting tin. Anywhere there is a public notice board, stick one up. Gigs sympathetic bands are often happy to have info stalls at their gigs and sometimes allow bucketing. Contact the venue or promoters and ask for a contact for the tour manager and see how far you get.

If there's a big action or event in your area we are quite happy to supply you with extra AUs. On the off chance you may want some money, please remember to send us some.

Tips for submitting article to the AU

- ♦ Articles can be submitted to the AU via e-mail, post or phone. Easiest for us is a text file, either on disk or as an e-mail attachment (add the article to the body of the text too).
- ♦ Articles should be between 80-150 words. We will try and edit only for length, spelling and clarity
- ♦ Make sure it includes a line explaining what the project, campaign or issue is (don't assume all readers will know) a contact for further information and if applicable a date. If there is going to be further action to get involved in make sure this is included.
- ♦ If possible include a contact for you in case we have queries about your article.
- ♦ If you want to submit a feature article (these should be information NOT personal rants) please get in touch first to check we have space and what formats we can accept. Ideas for information towards features are also very useful.

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are local EF! contacts
some are active groups
others need more people
to get in touch

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16 Portland St
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020 7690 0626
genetics@gn.apc.org

Primal Seeds
Suite 305
255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
www.primalseeds.org
mail@primalseeds.org

Cremate Monsanto continues!

On Jan 3rd farmers destroyed a GM Cotton crop in Savalanga, India. Volunteers of the newly-formed Hasiru Sene (Green Brigade), the youth wing of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association (KRRS), rushed to the field, uprooted the Bt cotton crop and then set it on fire.

The KRRS has been waging a battle to stop the application of the biotechnology to agriculture on the plea it is harmful to the environment and does incalculable damage to traditional and indigenous agricultural methods.

Contact swamy.krrs@vsnl.com and krrs_123@yahoo.com

Crop trashers convicted

On Jan 15th 4 men were convicted of vandalising a field containing GM crops in Midlothian, Scotland. They denied deliberately destroying the oilseed rape plants growing at Boghall Farm near Dalkeith in March 1999.

They argued that their actions were reasonable, given the potentially grave dangers to the environment. The 4 later pledged that their campaign would continue and are considering an appeal. They were arrested during a public rally at the site attended by around 100 people. The 4 received fines of between £125 and £250.

John Innes report

Produced recently suggests GM research has hit some setbacks. Apparently GM Barley lines haven't performed as expected and the use of the Cauliflower Mosaic virus as a promoter has caused 'recombination hotspots' as critics had predicted. Source ISIS

Contact EF!AU, PO Box 487
Norwich, NR2 3AL
Tel: 01603 219811
★ **us!** ★ www.eco-action.org/efau
efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

Christiani and Nielson bankrupt

The company contracted to finish the Avon ring road went bankrupt just before Christmas. After 11 years of delays and with only 1½ miles to complete, South Gloucestershire Council are desperate for a replacement contractor.

There is nothing 'Stop The Avon Ring Road' (STARR) haven't tried in their campaign including protest camps and court cases. The last straw for Christiani and Nielson was when a bridge had to be rebuilt because it was put up in the wrong place! Perhaps surveyors didn't take 'mobile markers' into consideration. Recently floods have hit the area and travellers have taken up residence.

Contact STARR 07979 990389.

BOCM Pauls Exeter

10 genetiX activists shut down Exeter's BOCM Pauls animal feed mill in November. 2 women D-locked their necks to lorries at the main gate and ceased vehicle movement in and out of the plant for 1½ hrs. 5 others snuck round the back: 2 locked on to a lorry and 3 others got onto the roof forcing the manager to close the mill for the rest of the working day. Banners were hung out the front, stating 'Take GM Out of Animal Feed!' Workers, passers by and Police people were leafleted and talked to.

Contact Totnes Genetics Group
info@togg.org.uk

Am-Bushed!

USA...

At 10am hundreds of anarchists began marching through downtown streets for about an hour until police brought in more vans and forces. The situation escalated as the police forced people down sidewalks. There were arrests and de-arrests as some fought back for the street. At one point anarchists defaced American flags and hung up their own at a memorial.

Thousands of protesters, outnumbering the Bush supporters, marched to the inaugural route. When Bush's limo drove down Pennsylvania Ave. it was met with jeers, hand signs and protest banners.

UK...

Hundreds picketed the US embassy London from 9.30am to 1.30pm on Jan 20th. Dozens of different organisations were represented including CND, FoE and Mumia Must Live Campaign. Several arrests were made for 'violating the dignity of the embassy'. Speakers brought attention to Bush's plans to increase the US arsenal, the fact that many black people were denied the vote, how devastation is set to accelerate under Bush, and many other issues.

The picket ended with the chant "No justice No peace!"

Watch this space! UK Anti-election feature article in next months AU.

...and finally

A message from the high-piers who baked in Den Haag "all you need is a smart suit, a pie and a good rant; keep believing you can get away with it; keep ranting and you may get thrown out; people are so shocked that you can use the confusion to your advantage and get away"

Biotic Baking Brigade bbb@asis.com
www.asis.com/~bbb/

return of the mystery sub-box

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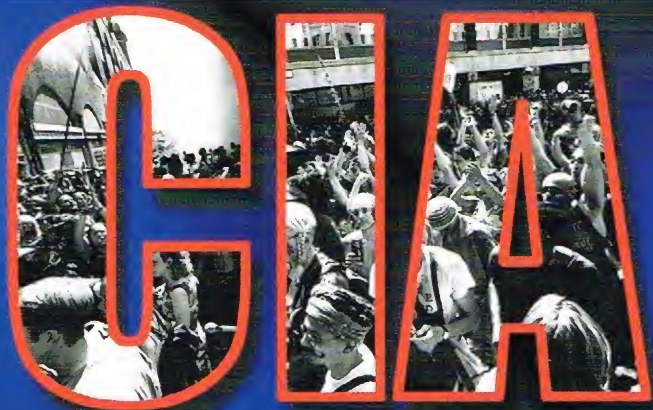
From: EF!AU
PO Box 487
Norwich
NR2 3AL
England

Subscriptions cost a minimum £5 for 10 issues. Send more if you can so we can distribute free to prisoners etc. Cheques payable to Earth First! Action Update. Worried about security? You may wish to consider a false name & c/o address.



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CAMBRIDGE IN APRIL

**Protest against the
abuse of humans,
animals and the planet**

www.go.to/cambridgeinapril

**Saturday 21st April
meet at 11am
Cambridge Train Stn**

**THIS TIME IT'S
FOR REAL!**

Earth First!

Action Update

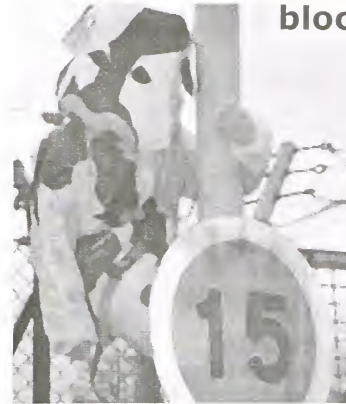
March 2001

Issue 74

A monthly round-up of ecological and other direct action from around Britain

"Dance then, fairies, for joy and sing, the song of the coming again of spring" C. M. Barker

GM-MOO! 5 Sainsbury's distro depots blockaded



Cow scales lamppost in Basingstoke

On Feb 22nd five of supermarket chain Sainsbury's Regional Distribution Centres (RDCs) were simultaneously blockaded. The actions commenced at 10:30am blocking depots in Basingstoke, Hampshire; East Kilbride, near Glasgow; Elstree, North London; Maidstone, Kent and Stone, Staffordshire.

Sainsbury's was targeted because of their failure to follow recent moves by other supermarkets in announcing a date by which all own-brand meat, dairy, egg and fish products will be from animals raised on a GM free diet. Such products are a back door-route by which GE food can enter the commercial market. Currently up to 75% of GE crops world-wide go into animal feed.

Protestors from a range of action groups, some dressed as

cows, chained themselves to lorries bringing the depots to a standstill for several hours. At Stone, four protesters managed to crawl under and lock-onto a refrigerated lorry for three hours. They were cut free (one from the engine block) and promptly arrested for aggravated trespass. Meanwhile a group of cows managed to stop and lock-on to a leaving lorry in Maidstone. For two hours the cows prevented any lorries from entering or leaving the depot. Police then led the two cows and two bulls away and arrested them for aggravated trespass and breach of the peace.

This action hit around a quarter of Sainsbury's frozen/chilled food RDCs. GM fed animal products are most likely to be found in these products.

Contact GEN 020 7690 0626
genetics@gn.apc.org for more GE info.

Sabotage!

Sometime during the week of Feb 21st a Sainsbury's supermarket in West Yorkshire was targeted. Several windows were smashed and the slogan 'Smash Genetics' emblazoned in graffiti across the store.

GE feature article inside including implications of recent court cases, where to find this years test sites & info on foot and mouth disease

The philosophy behind Earth First! is the use of non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it's inhabitants.

It is not a cohesive group or campaign rather a convenient banner for those interested in these ideas.

Lift-off to flood-down

The first flight from Manchester Airport's second runway was due to take place on Feb 5th. The land destroyed to make way for the runway was occupied by protest camps from 1997-1999.

In protest, 30 people locked on to the departure desk considerably holding up proceedings. Wildlife lovers will have been astounded to see the return of a 7-foot badger, wearing a 'homeless' sign, who helped by handing out leaflets. Police were typically unhelpful and assaulted people, one of whom was later charged with assaulting the police! Another 2 people were arrested for hanging banners but later released without charge.

The successful action received a good response from the public. The event took place to commemorate the beautiful, but now lost, Bollin Valley; £170m of taxpayers' money wasted and increased pollution for the people of South Manchester.

Contact Manc EF! 0161 2266814
mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk

The EF! AU is produced to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions and articles (max 150 words) so if you've set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we'd like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

News in brief...

★ **USA ELF!** A Delta & Pine Land Co. warehouse in Visalia, California storing massive quantities of Monsanto transgenic cotton seed was torched on Feb 20th. Also tree spiking and survey stake pulling was reported in the Hardesty Wilderness Area in the Unpqua National Forest.

★ A noise demo was held at Wakefield prison on Feb 25th in support of framed prisoner Mark Barnsley. Another is planned soon see diary.

★ Direct Action Network (DAN) North East captured a Nexus Care Bus in Dec to highlight how unfair that form of transport is for disabled people. Police had to use bolt cutters to drag two Danners out, but one was handcuffed under the bus, out of the bolt cutters reach. 0191 482 4425.

★ Leafleting and picketing took place at a GAP store in Norwich on Mar 10th, highlighting the low pay and abysmal conditions in GAP's factories.

★ On Dec 4th 5 Yorkshire anti-GE activist were found guilty of criminal damage to an Aventis oil seed rape trial and each ordered to pay £300 costs. However the Liverpool magistrate expressed sympathy with the activists and refused to award Aventis compensation. sgordon@hotmail.com

★ A new website documenting the campaign against the Newbury bypass www.geocities.com/newburybypass is now online. The road is open but locals remain active, campaigning against Vodafone and other in-fill developments. 07000 206 181 also www.newburyproject.org.uk

★ Bosnia recently rejected US 'aid', in the form of 40,000 tons of GM corn for animal feed, due to fears of health risks. rjvint@globalnet.co.uk

★ The John Lewis Partnership announced it was ending the killing of pheasants by staff on its shooting estate in Hampshire after protests had taken place up & down the country.

★ New European laws will open the floodgates to GM food and crops. A new directive, backed by the Government, ends a 3-year moratorium on granting licences for their commercial development thus making it illegal to ban commercial planting unless serious and justified concerns over impacts can be demonstrated. The effect of new laws is not likely to be felt for 2 years. Source: Observer Feb 11th.

SWP editor pied

On the evening of Feb 7th Chris Harman, editor of Socialist Worker, was pied whilst talking at Leeds University as part of the 'Globalise Resistance' Tour. This action was taken by anarchists in response to the Socialist Worker Party's increasing parasitical interest in the so-called 'new anti-capitalist movement'.

Two black clad anarchists entered stage left whilst another two waited in the wings keeping all exits clear. Before poor Chris knew what was happening he had two plates of cream stuck to his face. The underside of which proclaiming 'All government is slavery' and 'International Black Block'.

Earlier in the evening 100's of 'vampire slayer' leaflets were given out explaining how the SWP were detrimental to the movement. Forwarded by earthlibprisoner@mail.com. Vampire alert leaflet available from the Anarchist Teapot (see contacts) - send SAE.

Posh car pied

On Feb 21st Anne Widdecombe arrived in Nottingham to sign copies of her new book. There was a picket outside the bookstore by the Refugees Forum and the Anti Nazi League. Some activists managed to get very close, close enough to hurl abuse, but not the pie they had waiting for her. Her posh, chauffeur-driven car got barricaded in by wheely bins and pied twice however.

Sod off Sodexho

On Feb 24th, about 25 gathered at Queens Square Bristol, for an action against anti-worker and anti-union Sodexho. They specialise in winning bids to make profits out of public money and are involved in prison building, running the voucher scheme for asylum seekers and servicing armies.

Over 600 leaflets were distributed during this colourful and noisy demo. Activists entered the Marriott Hotel, College Green (connected to Sodexho) and dropped a 'Sodexho Marriott, from Hotels to Prisons' banner from the Royal Suites floor. More banners were displayed outside denouncing Sodexho's oppression of inmates, refugees, and workers.

After ½ an hour the fire brigade arrived; they'd been told to stay until the action ended. A decision was reached to end the action so as not to endanger the public by immobilising rescuing forces. A few people then joined a demo at Tesco, Eastgate against the voucher scheme.

Contact kebele@marsbard.com

Terrorism bill



Statue of Emily Pankhurst, London

On Feb 19th the New Terrorism Bill was enacted. The Act brings much of the Northern Ireland 'emergency' legislation into mainland UK law and broadens the definition of potential terrorist acts to include damage to property.

In celebration 'terrorists' took to the streets in Bristol and London. On Feb 17th people in Bristol staged a roving demo, visiting other actions being carried out that day. Demonstrators against school closures, the sanctions against Iraq and people outside Marks & Spencer (the UK's largest importer of Israeli goods) were supported and given information.

In London on Feb 19th action started early with leafleting of New Scotland Yard, the Home Office and MI5. 1000+ leaflets based on a subverted version of police anti-terrorism posters were distributed. Lab bottles containing GM plants were then delivered to various government departments as examples of "state terrorism" (reference to the Royal Society of Canada's recent report on GMOs). The action culminated with the unfurling of a long black 'terrorist' banner in Parliament square and 'Terrorist 19/02/01' banners hung on statues of sufferagette Emily Pankhurst and Nelson Mandela.

Contact Kebele kebele@marsbard.com and London RTS rts@gn.apc.org

...and it's not just the UK

The first European Conference on Terrorism in Madrid in Feb decided new measures to combat "anarchist terrorism" including "radical groups" and "structures which support and nourish [them]". This means the EU (backed by Europol) now count 'anarchists' or 'radicals' who oppose the system and practice political dissidence as terrorists even if no violence is used (sound familiar?). Financial incentives are proposed to encourage grassing. This has happened immediately after the anti-globalisation struggles. Source: <http://www.ainfos.ca>

Mayday!

London - autonomous actions based on the the monopoly board. 07989 451 096 mayday2001@hushmail.com www.freepress.org/mayday2k

Birmingham - anti-capitalist day of action details TBC s26brum@hotmail.com 07980 415577

Norwich - another free fair, building on last years success 07944 874 393

Loads of stickers have been produced apparently try dave@spanner.org

If you've got plans for Mayday tell us ASAP for inclusion in April's issue
EFAU contact details on back page

Big May squat

A big, well-sorted 2-week occupation is planned for the second half of May. The aim is to squat a large vacant site and explore it's creative potential NOW, rather than waiting until it's about to be bulldozed by profit hungry developers. Tat is being accumulated (more is needed) and all sorts of skilled/creative/enthusiastic people to make the event work - so keep the second half of May free! If you would like to be kept up to date about this project e-mail

BigHotMaySquat@excite.com or jot down a postal address to Maysquat c/o 2 St. Pauls Rd, London, N1 2QN

Easter Picnic

April 15th 2pm rally against GM Crop trials Harbury, Warwickshire Speakers and live music Info line: 01926 832650 <http://freespace.virgin.net/harbury.picnic/>

Lifecycles

a pedal powered genetix road show, inspired by last years cycle rides to Prague and Den Haag. Lifecycles aims to raise awareness and empower people to act against the biotech threat (although, as there are no single issues, they will cover other things, like climate change, too).

They plan to cycle round Devon, holding events where locals can find out about GM and possibly develop plans to prevent the planting of Farm Scale Trials. Pre-publicity and venues have been organised by friends and campaigners on the route. Unfortunately tour dates can't be confirmed because of the foot and mouth outbreak. Contact 07050 618 445 lifecycles@uk.cf www.lifecycles.uk.cf or TOGG 01803 840 098 info@togg.org

Low-impact homes

Chapter 7 offers advice to those wanting to build low-impact homes on their land or live in affordable accommodation, such as mobile homes, whilst working on smallholdings or woodland. A newsletter is now available with updates on UK projects and planning advice, subs £5 (£3 conc) to Chapter 7, The Potato Store, Flax Drayton Farm, South Petherton, Somerset TA14 01460 249204 Thurs, 01935 881975 other days.

chapter7@dio.demon.co.uk

The EFAU need subscribers.
Subscriptions provide a regular income, which helps us plan ahead and avoid financial crisis. (subs box on back page)
Donations are very handy too. Cheers!

EF! Summer Gathering

The new provisional dates for the EF! Summer Gathering are: arrival Fri July 20th, to begin on Sat 21st continuing until approx Wed 25th. The site is currently not affected by foot & mouth restrictions: this situation is being monitored.

Contact summergathering@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to ask/off anything, especially if you have no experience but would like to join in the gathering planning collective, or shadow someone working on a particular thing - we'd love to hear from you!

Wales newsgroups

Two e-mailing lists have been set up in Wales as info/networking points for campaigners and activists. bangor-werdd@yahoogroups.com is a local North Wales list. dan-cymru@yahoogroups.com is an all Wales network.

More rising tide

'90% for 90%' is a call to cut fares by 90% to make public transport affordable and begin changes to bring about the 90% reduction in greenhouse gases needed to combat climate chaos. Kitted out with '90% for 90%' railcards, supporters of the call will ask transport workers and passengers to join in. You might refuse to pay more than 10%. You might show the card in solidarity. You might leaflet the train. For downloadable railcard and background info, www.risingtide.org.uk from March 25th. Cards may be available in time for the International Day of Action on Climate Change March 21st. Contact Manchester EF! 01612 266814.

Prisoners

If you know of anyone who you think we ought to be supporting get in touch with the AU or ELP (listed opposite), let us know as much as possible (what they're in for, how long, when they're due for release, details of any support campaign etc). The AU prioritises listing new co-prisoners ELP carry a more detailed list.

UK

Garfield Gabbard FT9062 HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London, N7 on remand for setting fire to a police van at N30 Euston demo expecting a 7 year sentence. See Himlan EX7748, on remand for Criminal damage at 9 Ladies quarry. Currently being moved so send letters to 9 Ladies (see contacts - Protest camps) and they'll pass them on. Charlotte Lewis, GN4092, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Rd,

London, N7 ONU, sentenced Jan 31st to 6 months for sending hate mail to HLS staff. Jonathan Elliot, FT10TT, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London, N7 8TT, sentenced in Dec to 6 months for affray London 1999 N30 demo

Europe

Geert Waegemans Begijnestraat 42 2000 Antwerp, Belgium, recently on remand for with various arsons against the meat industry and McDonalds.

USA

Andrea (Drea) Rightscell, Inmate Latah County Jail, P.O. Box 8068, Moscow, ID 83843, USA, sentenced to 4 months on Feb 23rd for blocking access to the Otter Wing timber sale in Idaho. Barney Kern, Chilliwak Community Correctional Center, 45914 Rowat Ave, Chilliwak, BC V2P 1J3, Canada, re-sentenced on Feb 20th to 6 months for defending the Elaho Valley in Canada. due out around May 10th.

Peter Schnell #S-199738 and Matthew Whyte #S-199970, both at SC County Jail, 259 Water St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA, federal charges filed on Feb 10th, facing a max of 20 years for alleged possession of materials (gas, gallon jugs, and birthday candles) which could be made into 'destructive devices'. Jeremiah Rush Bowen DOC #108016, POB 392004, Denver, CO 80239-8004, USA, sentenced to 2 years on Jan 26th for arson,

Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

c/o BM Box 2407 London, WC1N 3XX Online newsletter earthlibprisoner@mail.com www.spiritofreedom.org.uk Urgent ELP Bulletin sends out names of new prisoners as soon as ELP gets them animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com

Writing to prisoners

Remember to include the prisoners number and a return address (prisons won't accept the letter without one, not all accept PO Box address) for more tips on writing contact ELP or Anarchist Black Cross c/o 6 Tilbury Place Brighton BN2 2GY

"Any political movement that does not support it's political internees is a sham movement"
Ojore Lualo, political prisoner

Okay so we don't know when it is yet, but foot and mouth not withstanding, consider yourself fully equipped with the EFAU...

Anti-election special

So what's it all about then?

Electoral 'democracy' is a sham. A handy illusion created to give the appearance of choice by allowing us to choose our leaders. Of course this is no choice at all. Left or right, red, blue or green all political parties are committed to some form of capitalism be it local, state or to stand a hope in hell at the present time free market global. Perhaps more crucially all are committed to ruling, to the idea of government hence the majority being governed. They wish to retain politics in the realm of professionals and experts and deny ordinary people control over their own lives. To vote (for whatever party) is to accept this, to support the idea of a society based on power and hierarchy. The alternative is direct action. Organising ourselves in our work places and communities meet our needs and create the free and ecological future.

Ideas for action

- All the usual good ole' agitation, education and organisation. Posters, leaflets, stickers, graffiti spreading the word there is an alternative to what's on offer.
- Active not voting campaigns – these seem pretty popular this time, encouraging the spoiling of ballot papers rather than not turning up at all.
- Street theatre, the opportunities are endless. Our favourite so far is the bicycle election 'car'. Rig up a battery amplifier on a bicycle and merrily spend the day broadcasting spoof election slogans round your neighbourhood. Comedy costumes advised.
- Alternative placards and window notices – these are very good for warding off political canvassers
- Many schools hold mock elections. You could try writing a nice letter to heads of personal and social development (who are often responsible) offering a speaker on alternatives to voting. Okay – it's a long shot but you never know

Of course there's always ignoring the day altogether, getting on with your usual direct action and taking control of your own life.

What we've heard about so far

Derby Anarchists have produced some good posters, worth adapting for other areas. Try sending them an SAE and a nice letter, Box EMAB, 88 Abbey Street, Derby DE22 3SQ ain@ziplip.com

A Campaign has been launched in Bristol to get a positive vote for NOBODY in May's local elections. Rather than advocate abstention the NOBODY campaign team are urging people to write NOBODY or NONE OF THE ABOVE on their ballot papers. These will be counted as spoilt ballot papers and if these are greater in number than votes cast for the winner the ward in question will be declared an autonomous zone free from council control. It is hoped the campaign will spread nationally so that NOBODY storms home

countrywide on May 3rd. votendbox@yahoo.co.uk Coming soon on www.freenorwich.co.uk "Abstain" is the only campaign we've heard

web based. And whenever it happens, Norwich election day critical mass, wear your twinset and pearls, bring babies to kiss and dig out your best Mrs. T hand-bag. 6pm by St. Peter Mancroft.

IF VOTING CHANGED ANYTHING THEY'D MAKE IT ILLEGAL!

it only encourages power seekers... Use your cross wisely – crucify a politician... All politicians are lying scum – we must



Genetic Engineering Information and Updates for activists



Implications of the Greenpeace trial On Sept 20th 2000 28 Greenpeace (GP) activists were found not guilty of Criminal Damage (CD) to a GM Crop trial in Lyng, Norfolk. The verdict came after a retrial, the first resulted in a hung jury. This shows a case against GE can be made in court, although, of course, there can be no guaranteed outcome in a case like this. Some points to consider: • Court cases are a major undertaking and can drag out over a considerable amount of time. • GP had a jury trial. Although there are not enough cases to draw clear conclusions, so far those facing magistrates have been less lucky. You are only entitled to a jury in certain cases (usually those carrying a risk of imprisonment) GP got one as they were initially charged with theft and a high value of CD. Magistrates hear lesser charges of CD and Aggravated Trespass. • A key aspect of GP defence centred round destroying the crop before flowering. The defences argued not for GE but that GP had been staging publicity stunt not a genuinely felt decontamination. • GP have produced a booklet 'GM on trial' available for £5 from GP UK Address below. • GP are a big and (relatively) well-resourced organisation. Because of the fluid and undefined nature of the direct action movement people facing trial sometimes don't receive the support they deserve, either because people don't know about the case or what support is wanted. If you find yourself up in court over GE there almost certainly are people who would wish to offer support and advice – but be prepared to ask! Good starting points are GEN, The GenetiX Update and the EFAU Action Update. This article was shortened to make room for the FMD piece.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

As no doubt everyone will be aware the UK is currently experiencing an outbreak of FMD. This has led to the effective closer of much of the countryside (and parks and footpaths in urban areas) and a massive cull of farm animals.

- FMD is a highly contagious viral infection affecting cattle, sheep, pigs and goats. Some wild and zoo animals are also susceptible. It is spread by airborne dispersal; movement of animals, vehicles and people and the feeding of infected meat, milk or other by-products. The virus is destroyed by heat or disinfectant.
 - FMD is rarely fatal in adult animals, there is no cure but vaccination is possible. Most animals 'recover' naturally in 2-3 weeks. The main problems are the side effects, loss of condition and yields, miscarriage, sterility, heart conditions and increased susceptibility to secondary infection. These economic losses are the reason for the current containment and eradication program.
 - It is not considered to affect Humans and is not related to the human viral condition Hand, Foot and Mouth.
 - Currently special Orders give Local Authorities powers to prevent the movement of people onto farmland and footpaths to prevent the spread of FMD. Breaking these orders is an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981 and carries a fine of up to £5000.
 - During the 1967 outbreak all agricultural testing was suspended. There seems unlikely at present, however Greenpeace have been applying pressure.
 - The situation regarding access and movement in the countryside is currently under review and news about FMD is breaking daily. It's strongly advised people interested in FMD keep a selective eye on the media for news.
- Most of the information for this article came from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) web-site (recommended for further information) www.maff.gov.uk/ANIMAL/HDISEASES/FMD

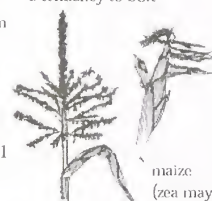
Farm Scale Trial Crops

Flowering times are intended for guidance only, exact times will vary with weather, variety and location

Fodder & sugar beet are being considered as one crop for the current round of Farm Scale Trials
Planting March-April
flowering shouldn't occur until 2nd Year, though GM varieties have shown a tendency to bolt

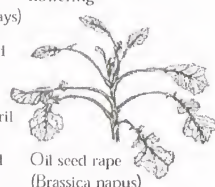


Beet, sugar & fodder (Beta vulgaris)



Maize planted late April-May
Flowering Lt June/July (about 2 months after planting)
Harvest 6 weeks after flowering

Oil seed rape (winter and Spring)
Winter sown Oct/Nov
flowering end March/April
Harvest July/Sept
Spring sown March/April
flowering June



Oil seed rape (Brassica napus)

UK GE test-site info can be found at www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites

Contacts and Resources

Campaign against Human Genetics
PO box 6313
London N16 0DY
Cahge@globalnet.co.uk
Colonizing the Seed, Genetic Engineering and Techno-Industrial Agriculture. Excellent pamphlet – not quite sure where you get these from now, but we have quite a few at the AU – send us about £1.50 and we'll post you one.

Corporate Watch
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 791391
mail@corporatewatch.org
www.corporatewatch.org
produce briefings on the companies behind GE
Genetic Engineering, Food and our Environment, A brief guide (book).
Greenbooks 1999 ISBN 1-870098-78-1
Genetic Engineering

Network (GEN)
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7690 0626
genetic@gn.apc.org
www.geneticsaction.org.uk
GenetiX Snowball
Box13, 43 Gardner St
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowantilly@gn.apc.org
Accountable Crop removal, but also useful 'how to' info on a Crop sabotage
GenetiX Update
Totnes GenetiX Group (ToGG)
PO Box 77, Totnes

Devon, TQ9 5ZJ
01803 840098
info@togg.org
Publish the regular GenetiX Update.
Genewatch
The Mill House
Manchester rd.
Tidwell, Buxton
Derbyshire, SK17
01298 871898
gene.watch@tial.pipex.com
www.genewatch.org
various detailed briefings on GE issues – starting to work on Human Genetics this year.
Greenpeace UK

Canonbury villas
London N1 2PN
020 7865 8100
info@greenpeace.org
Publish 'GM on trial'
Primal Seeds
Suite 305
255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
mail@primalseeds.org
www.primalseeds.org
Actively engaging in protecting biodiversity and creating local food security.
Excellent anti-biotech resource.

Action Groups

are local EPI contacts
some are active groups
others need more people
to get in touch

Birmingham S26
Collective
PO Box 9417
Birmingham, B13 9WA
07980 415577
26brum@hotmail.com

Dartmoor EPI
c/o PO Box 77
Totness, Devon
TQ9 5ZJ

Grampian EPI
PO Box 248
Aberdeen AB25 1JE

Gwynedd & Môn EPI
The Greenhouse
1 Trevelyan Terrace
Bangor, Gwynedd
LL57 1AX
01248 255 821
bangor-weird@yahoo.co.uk

Leeds EPI c/o CRC
16 Sholdenker Ave
Leeds LS7 3HB
020 7282 9365
leedsfep@ukf.net

London RTS
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7281 4621
rts@gn.apc.org

Regular readers of the AU may have noticed a somewhat gaping hole has appeared in the contacts list. In January we mailed all listed local groups asking them to confirm their contact details or be removed from the list. A reminder was published in the last AU and another sent out with it. If you were wondering why your local group is no longer listed it is because we did not receive a reply.

Contacts that can't be contacted are marginally worse than useless, so an overhaul was obviously needed. This is not an attempt to exclude groups we are more than happy to re-list any group that gets back in touch.

We'd also like to hear from any other local autonomous eco-direct action groups that would like to be listed. You don't need to be using the name Earth First! Just have an affinity with the idea, be willing and able to be contacted and want to network with other like minded groups. If you'd like to set up a group, but aren't sure how, the Blatant Incitement Collective (listed under support groups) or the AU are happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

We will be making one last attempt to contact lapsed groups this month but won't be sending anymore AUs coz we can't afford to mail randomly to possibly dead addresses.

EF! Contacts List March 2001

Manchester EPI
Box29, 22a Bewick St
Manchester, M4 7HS
0161 2266 814
mancedf@nematode.
liveserve.co.uk

(Newcastle) TAPP
PO Box ITA
Newcastle NE99 1TA

Norwich DAF
PO Box 487
Norwich NR2 3AL
07944 874 393

Nottingham EPI
c/o the Rainbow Centre
245 Gladstone St
Nottingham, NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595
Notsef@veggies.org.uk

Sheffield EPI
c/o Brambles Resource
Centre, 82 Andover St
Sheffield S3 9E1
0114 279 7164

South Wales) SWAN
PO Box 70
Newport NP1 0YD
Swanorg@vahoo.co.uk

Warwick: the old group's
folded but someone wants
to set up a new one!
T.G.Graeves@warwick.ac.uk

York LEAF
C/o SU Centre
University of York
Heslington
York YO10 5DD

**Support Groups
& Information
Networks**

Activists Legal Project
16b Chervell Street
Oxford, OX4 1BG
01865 243 772
activistslegal@gn.apc.org

Anarchist Teapot
Mobile Kitchen, Box B
21 Little Poreton Street
Brighton BN1 2HQ
katchoo22@clarkmail.com

Blatant Incitement Project
(outreach & small group
support)
c/o Manc. EPI
chlat@freemove.liveserve.co.uk

**CAGE (against the prison
system)**
c/o 245 Gladstone St
Nottingham NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595

Corporate Watch
16b Chervell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 791391
mail@corporatewatch.org

Earth Liberation Prisoners
support Network
BM Box 2407
London, WC1N 3XX
earthlibprisoners@mail.com

Genetic Engineering
Network (GEN)
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7690 0626
genetics@gn.apc.org

Primal Seeds
Suite 305
255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
www.primalseeds.org
mail@primalseeds.org

**URGENT (green field
housing), Box 11N**
16b Chervell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 794 800
info@urgent.org.uk

Publications

The Agitator-Directory of
Autonomous Groups
C/o Haringey Solidarity
Group, PO Box 2474
London N8

Counter Information
c/o ACE, 17 West
Montgomery Place
Edinburgh E7 5HA
0131 557 8242

Do or Die
c/o Prior House
6 Tibury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY
cloutip@yahoo.co.uk

FINs - for a full list of
Free Information
Networks, send SAE to:
London FIN

Genetic Update
c/o ToGG, PO Box 77
Totness, Devon
TQ9 5ZJ

Green Anarchist
BCM 1715
London WC1N 3XX

Peace News
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DY

Schneus
PO Box 2600, Brighton
E. Sussex BN2 2DX
01273 685913
schneus@brighton.co.uk

The EPIAU has a list of
local publications that
may be of interest. Send
an SAE or e-mail.

Video

i-Contact video network
76 Mira Road, Bristol
BS29TX 01179140188
i-contact@vidconetwork.org

RadiX-DA video library
C/o Projektwerkstatt
Gostenhofer Hauptstr 50
D90443 Nuernberg
Germany 49(0)9112875880
radiX@pathfindernail.com

Virtual News

http://www.aifos.ca
a multi-lingual news
service by, for and about
anarchists

Allsorts - UK based
e-news for activists
allsorts@gn.apc.org
www.indymedia.org

Advisory Service for
Squatters
2 Saint Pauls Road
London N1 2QN
020 7359 8814
advic@sqat.freeserve.co.uk

ALF Supporters Group
BCM Box 1160
London WC1N 3XX
100321616@compuserve.net

Anarchist Federation
c/o 84b Whitechapel

High Street
London E1 7QX
ChiapasLink, Box 79
82 Colston St, Bristol
chiapaslink@yahoo.com

Disabled Action Network
3 Crawley Road
Wood Green
London N22 6AN
020 88891361

DELTA
Box Z, 13 Biddulph St
Leicester LE2 1BH
0116 210 9652
lync@gn.apc.org

Friends of People Close to
Nature (FPCN UK)
33 Gould Close
Wellham Green, Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL9 7EB
01707 885 994
raims@fpcn-global.org

Genetix Snowball
Box 13, 43 Gardner St
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowanlity@gn.apc.org

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
PO Box 2786
Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org

Industrial Workers
of the World
75 Humberstone Gate
Leicester LE1 1WB

The Land is Ours
16b Chervell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01460 249204
office@thelandisours.co.uk

Legal Defence &
Monitoring Group
BM Haven, London
WC1N 3XX

London GreenPeace &
McLibel Campaign
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
020 7713 1269
info@mcspolight.org

Making Waves
PO Box 1377
Sheffield S36 4BZ
01226 764279
pw3office@aol.com

No Platform anti-fascist
network
PO Box 127
Leeds LS3 1TS

Reclaim the Satyagrahal
C/o 5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
07973 539 390
enquiries@satyagraha.org

Solidarity Federation
PO Box 29, SW PDO
Manchester M15 5HW

0161 232 7889

Stop Huntingdon Animal
Cruelty Campaign
PO Box 38
Cheltenham
Glouce GL50 1YN
01231 632 6460

Trident Ploughshares 2000
42-46 Bethel St
Norwich NR2 1NR
01324 880744
tp2000@gn.apc.org

Protest Camps

Aldermaston Women's
Peace Camp
33 Heron Rd
Bristol BS5 0LT
0117 939 3746

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Helensburgh
Dumbartonshire
G84 8HT Scotland
01436 820 901

9 Ladies Anti-Quarry
Camp, Lees Cross
Lees Rd, Stanton Lees
Matlock, Derbyshire
07799 528 871

Sellafield Women's Peace
Camp
Box Z (as Leeds EPI)
0113 262 1534

Valley d'Aspe Camp
Mobile+336 72634905

..and beyond
still active campaigns
that have had protest
camps in the past

Action Against the Toll
Motorway (AtoM)
actionagainstthetollmotorway
@hotmail.com
0121 643 9117

Golden Cross Road
Action Group (Fesses)
01702 541 267
07957 915 977

Hockey Housing
01702 206 181

Third Battle of Newbury
PO Box 5642
Newbury RG14 5WG
07000 785 201

International

The International contacts
list is currently being
overhauled. We suggest
anyone wishing to contact
groups outside the UK
uses the new list in Do or
Die 9.

Peoples Global Action
(against the WTO and
neo-liberalisation)
www.apg.org

Earth First Journal
PO Box 1415
OR 97440, USA
contains good contacts

'The Big Blockade'

Around 800 people blockaded Faslane Naval Base on Feb 12th. The event, organised by Trident Ploughshares (TP2000) and Scottish CND, was the largest anti-nuclear action in Scotland for decades. A convoy of coaches arrived at 7am to find the South Gate already blocked with tripods. Another structure was then assembled comprising locked-on people, bicycles, metal tubes, chicken wire and fabric. The police were confused and the entrance blocked for 10 hours. The North Gate was shut for 6 hours by assorted lock-ons, wheelchairs and many more bodies. A third gate was blocked when it was later found to be in use.

There were 385 arrests for breach of peace. Several young Irish women had a bad time of it when they were strip-searched: this was seen as racist behaviour. Contact TP2000 42-46 Bethel St Norwich, NR2 1NR, 01324 880744 tp2000@gn.apc.org

www.tridentploughshares.org

SHAC targets the city

Over 50 people hit 5 targets during a day of HLS actions on Feb 28th. Winterflood, who create a market for shares in HLS, were first on the list. The doors were closed blocking access for clients and workers whilst people were told all about Winterflood. The company was left in no doubt that things will get a lot worse.

Target 2 was Charles Schwabb who holds millions of shares in HLS. Police were in hot pursuit but activists managed to enter the building, get onto a balcony above main reception and into a courtyard round the back. Lots of noise was made ensuring that occupants were aware of the company's dirty dealings.

20 people blockaded a Novartis research lab while others gained access to second floor 'high security' areas and the manager's office. Police officers stormed the building shaking, screaming and panting but nobody was arrested, just thrown out. Another Novartis site was then besieged although huge amounts of police were already waiting.

Lastly the home of a Winterflood worker was visited. He was out, but his neighbourhood was informed of his involvement in animal abuse. Overall it was brilliant demo which had a huge impact. Contact SHAC 01216 326460.

Scottish opencast planned

Two years ago locals in S. Lanarkshire, Scotland campaigned against a proposed 488 hectare opencast coal mine. Everything went quiet. Then, with just 8 days notice and 2 days of access to planning documents, a council hearing was held. Best attempts were made to formulate a response but after much political mudslinging, and sidelining of local views the Labour Council passed the application by 20(ish) to 3.

Locals responded "while the democratic process is a farce, Direct Action is our response." Watch this space, spread this news, and please be ready to help. Orrabest, fae Talamhites.

Contact talanh@lineone.net

Nine Ladies

The Nine Ladies anti-quarry campaign is still going strong-complete with outdoor heated bath! A survey of the site due to take place on Feb 2nd was cancelled. There will now be a meeting on May 25th to determine whether or not Stanton Stone will go ahead with their plans to quarry. The more people around to dissuade them the better! Useful stuff like building and climbing tat, food, vans, donations and people are always welcome.

Wanted list <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/~nineladies/> Site mobile 07799 528871.

Notts anti-fascist demo

On March 3rd the National Front (NF) demonstrated at Nottingham prison. Callosly exploiting an emotional issue in an attempt to gain support, the NF were campaigning against paedophiles housed at the prison. About 400 mostly local people turned out to oppose the racist scum, dealing a blow to NF confidence: they mustered a pathetic 30.

At one point protesters attempted to push through police lines. The police drew batons and some local people were attacked and injured. 15 protesters were arrested and 13 charged, including a 16 year-old who was just passing by! Nottingham Anti-Fascist Alliance (NAFA) will be following up the many cases of brutality on the day and would like witnesses to get in touch.

Contact NAFA 07949 312668

nafanotts@yahoo.co.uk

See diary: Fash expected in Leicester and Oldham soon.

Diary dates...

March

21st Int. day against racism.
21st Int. day of action on Climate Change. info.risingtide.org.uk
24th Mark Barnsley noise demo noon
Wesgate station, nr Wakefield
barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com
24th-25th European PGA meeting, Milan. <http://www.apg.org>
24th 'Speakout against racism' 1pm Trafalgar Sq. www.ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/AA_R
25th Launch of '90% for 90%' climate actions. www.risingtide.uk
25th Actions against HLS's customers, Gt Dunmow, Essex. SHAC 0121 6326460.
31st SmithKlineBeecham product day SHAC 31st (the) fascist rally Oldham 07949 312668

April

Int. Month of Pie-rect action against Capital and Anarchist. www.desserststorm.org
1st Anarchist Army Day, Norwich high noon.
3rd Manc. Crown Court. TP2000 retrial 01324880744. tp2000@gn.apc.org
4th Nat. day of action against Sodexo sod-action@fmail.net
7th Anarchist Fed discussion day at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, 10am-5pm
14th CND anti-starwars action, Downing St. noon. 0207 700 2393. cnd@gn.apc.org
17th Via Campesina Int. peasants org. global call for action against patents on life & defence of farmers GEN 020 76900626
21st CIA Cambridge In April meet 11am at train station. www.go.to/cambridgeinapril
21st World day for lab animals SHAC
21st NF in Leicester! 07949 312668
22nd Earth Day. www.earthday.net
27th Workers' Memorial Day. Liverpool event contact peopleonaprofit@hotmail.com
29th Demo against Iraq sanctions. 1pm FCO King Charles St SW1, 2pm Downing St. 01865243232. voices@vivuk.freeserve.co.uk.

May

1st May Day - see AU p.3
3rd BAE AGM. Campaign Against Arms Trade 0207 2810297. www.caat.org.uk
4th Int. conf. on space militarisation & NMD 01274 730795 cndyorks@gn.apc.org
14th-21st Euro-tour of JLS customers SHAC
15th-16th Globalisation & nasty corporations conf. Glasgow. 01436 820901
25th Nine Ladies survey - see article p7
May/June 'Climate Chaos Roadshow', 01612 738516. climatechaos@yahoo.com

June

14th-16th EU Top meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden. www.motcraft.net/gbg2001

July

5th-12th Int. anti-border camp. Poland, 0048 (0) 603 247 245. rosnak@go2.pl
16th-27th COP6 1/2 climate talks Bonn.
20th-25th EPI Summer Gathering

August

21st-23rd G8 summit, Genoa.

November

5th-9th. WTO ministerial, Qatar.

Every effort is made to keep this contact list as up to date as possible, but we haven't time to check every contact every month. If you have trouble using any contact on this list please let us know. Also please make sure you tell us of any changes. We appreciate receiving any ideas to improve this list and make it as useful as possible.

All additions and alterations each month are shown in bold.

The inclusion of a contact on this list in no way implies the support of the AU editorial collective for that group, it's ideas, actions or indeed anything else.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted articles to the AU this month. If you are sending us something please try and keep to 150 words or less. We have to edit articles longer than this or we wouldn't be able to fit in all the stories.

TP2000 not guilty!

After 5 hours of deliberation on Jan 18th, a jury gave a majority verdict of not guilty for two Trident Ploughshares 2000 pledgers. They were charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage by attempting to decommission the Trident nuclear weapon submarine HMS Vengeance in Nov '99. The two happily admitted their intention to trash the sub, as nuclear weapons are immoral and in breach of international law. The judge told the jury that such ideals formed no defence against the charge. He was ignored. TP2000, 42-46 Bethel St, NR2 1NR
01324 880744 tp2000@gn.apc.org

London fur day of action

Nearly 100 activists gathered on March 3rd for the London Fur Day of Action, with about the same number of police looking on. An excellent, if somewhat long and tiring, series of actions against the fur trade took place. There were lively and noisy demos at 3 specialist fur shops, 8 fashion shops selling fur and at the homes of 2 fur shop owners, including Hockley director

Frank Zilberkweit, despite an injunction.

Many 1000s of leaflets were distributed and as the large crowd marched along, fur coat wearers were left in no doubt they weren't welcome on the streets of London, or anywhere else! Other targets of the day included Noble Furs, Versace and Jacob.

Regular demos at Philip Hockley Fur Shop, 20 Conduit St, London W1, every Wednesday 1-5pm and Saturday 1-4pm.

Contact London Animal Action BM
Box 2248, London WC1N 3XX, 0845 458 4775 laa@londonaa.demon.co.uk

Contact

★ us! ★

www.cco-action.org/efau
efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

EF!AU, PO Box 487
Norwich, NR2 3AL
Tel: 01603 219811

Menworth Hill

On Jan 20th, the day of president Bush's inauguration, the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) demonstrated at US National Security Agency (NSA) base, Menworth Hill, North Yorkshire. The base is crucial to the US National Missile Defence system. The demo included banner hanging, a subverted US flag and picketing at the main-gate. Eight people trespassed within the base for 1.5 hours, getting within metres of 2 new radar domes. There were no arrests. CAAB Tel/fax 01943 466405/01482 702033caab.lindis_anni@virgin.net

HLS national action

About 200 people arrived at Diss train station, Suffolk on March 4th for a demo at HLS Occold. With Suffolk and Norfolk police on alert the demo swiftly moved to Cambridge. Result: only 20 cops at HLS Huntingdon in Cambridge and much confusion. Workers were greeted and a 'Smash HLS' banner hung.

The crowd then moved to Aventis (customers of HLS). For the first hour only one cop was present, then 15 vans and a helicopter turned up. Until then security was non-existent except for a few cameras and a good run around the site was had! Interfauna, which supplies rats to HLS, was also visited. A top cop baffling day with no reported arrests.

...Stop press...Stop press...Stop press...
Peoples' Global Action European meeting 24th/25th Mar 2001, Milan - amazing chance for a Europe wide network of groups to come together
yabasta@tin.it rts@gn.apc.org

Birmingham HLS demos

Protestors entered the premises of Dupont at Mimsforth and had a good look round the offices before being thrown out by irate factory workers.

Charles-Schwab in Birmingham, who hold 5½ million shares in HLS, was then visited. Activists entered the 'Share Shop' area to inform customers and staff of the company's dirty dealings. One protestor was arrested on 'suspicion of burglary' due to the discovery of a 'non-standard' disc. The company's computer system was then shut down for hours for fear of *viral infection*. However, it turned out to belong to an employee doing a spot of work on the side! More actions planned. Contact SHAC 0121 632 6460.

Cork bin campaign

This Feb in Cork fines were imposed on activists from Householders Against Service Charges (HASC). They've been dumping rubbish outside the City Hall every Monday in protest against the bin 'double-tax'. The campaign is set to escalate in the coming weeks if the Dublin Corporation go ahead with plans to jail fined activists. rts-ireland@yahoo.com, for this and other Irish info see www.struggle.ws/wsm/bins.html or, <http://flag.blackened.net/revolt>

...and finally

A big hooray for the Rainbow Centre in Nottingham who secured the money to buy their new premises this month. The centre, which has provided resources for radical groups since 1984 and is home to the famous veggies catering co-op is moving to a permanent, co-operatively owned building. We wish them all the best. Their new address is 245 Gladstone St, Nottingham, NG7 6HX 0845 458 9595 info@veggies.org.uk

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